Glad Tidings

January/February 1998

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Glad Tidings

Jan./Feb. 1998 Volume 73 No.1

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Cover art from The Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cuba 1997 Calendar.

Inside: More on Cuba, India, Hungary and Africa!

United in Christ

by Janice Carter

Scripture: Psalm 133; 1 John 4:721

Hymn: Joyful, joyful we adore Thee #569 (Book of Praise 1972, #410, 1997)

Reflection: Recently I had the opportunity to meet members of the Presbyterian Church in Cuba. Despite the economic hardships the people endure, the churches are growing and many are seeking the message of salvation. The Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba consists of three Presbyteries, 40 congregations and approximately 2,000 members.

I was humbled and energized by the Christians I met at 'Nueva Paz' (New Peace) Presbyterian Church, a small church in the countryside. Arriving a day earlier than we were expected, a group of people gathered at short notice to meet us and share their stories. We brought greetings from our church in Canada.

This congregation holds weekly services and Bible studies. Their pastor ministers to three congregations. Lay people play a very important role in the life of the church. The women meet monthly to plan the activities of the church which was founded in 1901.They strive to bring the message of God to others and to serve God with love.

Three thirteen-year-old girls, Karelia, Yenisleidis and Analy on their noon break from school and their pastor, Omelio Martinez Anton shared in song. The pastor prayed in Spanish and Dorcas Gordon pronounced the benediction in English. It was a moving experience which brought tears to my eyes. No matter where we live and regardless of our situation we are 'United in Christ'.

There is so much that we can learn from one another. The Cuban people remain dedicated, faithful and hopeful despite the difficult economic and political situation. Whether our congregations are large or small, we are called to 'serve God with love.'

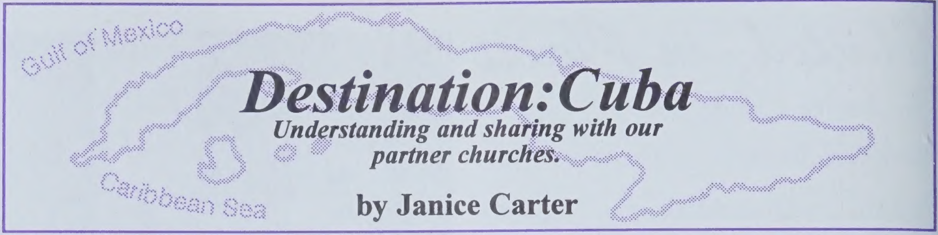
-Young people gathered outside Nueva Paz Church.

Prayer: God, may we here in Canada learn from the courage and the love of our sisters and brothers in Cuba. Help us to be ready to listen to the joys and hardships of our partners.

Thank you that we are 'United in Christ'. Thank you for Your goodness and for Your love. Strengthen our faith and our relationships with others. Help us to know that distance is no barrier to You, and that Your love binds us together wherever we may be. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba have signed a Covenant of Partnership (February, 1997). The primary goal is to "affirm the oneness of the Church of Jesus Christ in the World" and to sensitize both partners to the critical issues facing the church in the world.' One way to do this is by an exchange of visitors clergy, lay and professional.

L. June Stevenson, Editor of the Glad Tidings and Janice Carter, Editor of The Presbyterian Message, were in Cuba from October 12-26, 1997. Their visit was sponsored by the E.H. Johnston Memorial Trust Fund. Rev. Joe Reed, Presbyterian Area Missionary for the Caribbean, served as interpreter, and Dorcas Gordon, Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Toronto School of Theology, joined us for the second week.



Destination:Cuba

Understanding and sharing with our partner churches.

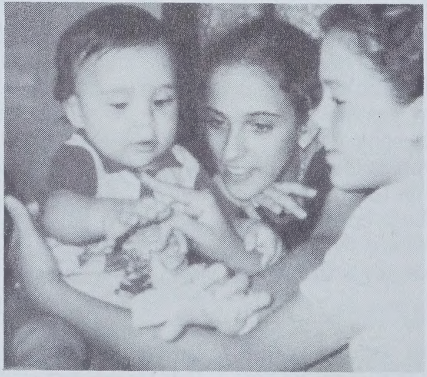
by Janice Carter

Churches in Cuba are experiencing amazing growth. Thousands of people are coming to church seeking the message of salvation. Because of the economic situation, spiritual needs are great. The churches accompany the people in their hopes and in their sadness.

Dialogue with church leaders provided insights into the challenges facing the Church in Cuba. Rev. Carlos Ham, a pastor at Luyano Church in Havana and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba (PRCC), says this growth in church attendance resulted from President Fidel Castro relaxing restrictions on the churches seven years ago. He says, "There is a new openness of government to religion. You can't control the thinking and feeling of the people."

We participated in Sunday morning worship at Luyano Presbyterian Church located in the bustling city of Havana. This church celebrated its 75th anniversary in April 1997. The hymns, although sung in Spanish, were familiar tunes to us.

Those who celebrated a birthday that month joyfully gathered at the front of the sanctuary, sharing and giving thanks for the many blessings in their lives. Everyone was very gracious and we enjoyed lunch with them following the service. Two days later we returned to Luyano Church to attend a musical evening celebrating 'Cuban cultural day'.



-Children at Luyano Presbyterian Church after service.

At First Presbyterian Church in Havana we participated in their midweek Bible Study group. Four years ago there were only 8-10 people in attendance and disbanding this midweek group was considered. Contacts were made to people living in the neighbourhood, more people joined and the group thrived. The congregation and minister are to be commended on their faithfulness in keeping the church open and reaching out to the local community.

This is the oldest Protestant Church in Havana and the only Protestant church to keep its doors open all day. Twenty-eight seniors are involved in the 'open door' program. Pastor Hector Mendez remarked that our visit 'is seen as a sign of love for the church in Cuba.'

First Church is involved in a successful 'phone crisis' help line (which has received assistance from the YMCA in Saint John, New Brunswick). The program coordinator, Aracelys Gomez, outlined problems which people encounter, many similar to those found in Canada, emotional problems, alcoholism, suicide, family problems, housing shortages, and so on. Hope, prayer and assistance are offered to the callers.

We met a group of caring, loving women one afternoon to hear their stories and to bring greetings. Women hold many leadership roles in the church. They participate in many of the same activities as do women in Canada.

The majority of session members are women and almost half of the pastors are women.

They are involved in Christian Education, fund raising, visiting the elderly, ill and needy, used clothing distribution, open door church program, providing economic aid and food to seniors. They keep smiling and have a good feeling despite the difficult economic times.

The concerns and work of women everywhere are similar. The women have a hymn based on their motto, 'Saved to Serve.' Workshops with themes of interest to women are held regularly. They correspond with the Seminary students and support them in prayer.

Accompanied by Dr. Isaac Jorge, Moderator of the PRCC, we set off for three days to visit churches in Cardenas, Varadero, Santa Clara and Nueva Paz. We visited a lovely, modern church in the tourist resort of Varadero (we fell in love with the beach there, but our busy schedule only allowed time to put our feet in the water). Next stop was the Juan G. Hall Church and museum in Cardenas where we experienced our first electrical blackout, a common occurrence for Cubans.

We spent one night at the Cardenas Centre for Reflection and Dialogue, a meeting place for people seeking to help the church, society and God's creation. They are involved in biogas projects, community health projects, environmental concerns, sustainable agriculture, and academic programs focused on education for lay people.

We visited the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, founded in 1946, where we toured their lovely campus situated on a hilltop overlooking the harbour and eagerly learned of the study programs offered.

- Husband picking wife up after women's meeting at First Presbyterian Church.

IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA - REFORMADA EN CUBA

We visited the classrooms, shared lunch and met with the nine Presbyterian students. It is an ecumenical Seminary with sixty-two resident students, some living there with their spouses and children. All the students have pastoral charges on the weekend. Many are second career people committed to sharing the message of the Gospel.

Fifty lay people will graduate in 1998 after three years of training. For one student, the greatest joy is seeing new people attending church. We were inspired and refreshed by our Seminary visit.

More young people are coming to church since tensions with the government have lessened. Many of them never attended church as children so they have had little religious training. For them the church is an unexplored, interesting place and community.

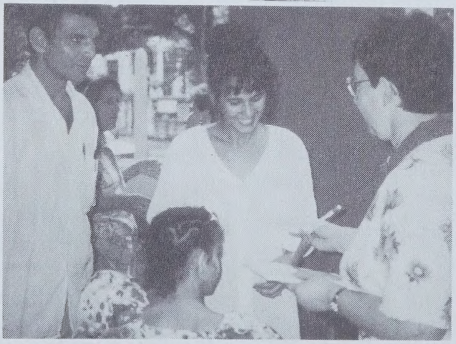
The church is working with the youth to deepen their Christian identity and holding meetings to encourage reflection and prayer. There is a need for trained leaders to work with the youth. Youth camps are held three times a year at the church camp. Young people fill the church with life and enthusiasm.

The church camp provides comfortable camp facilities for children, youth and families. Last summer they held their first camp for seniors which proved to be a success. The camp is able to accommodate 120 people. We spent a night at the camp where we were given a tour and highlights of their camp programs. A major difficulty and expense for people attending camp and church is the lack of transportation. Faithful volunteers work hard to make the camping experience a valuable one.

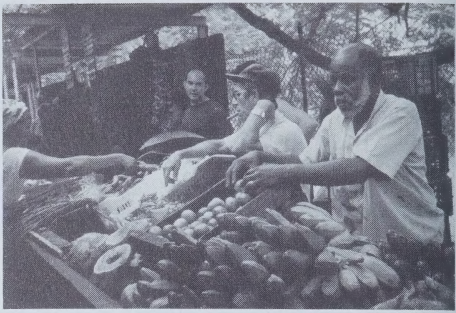
An Ecumenical Institute provides religious training every Saturday in Havana. The one hundred and fifty students, many travelling long distances, are truly committed to their studies that they may be better equipped to serve in their local congregations.

Some of the students have no religious affiliation but are eager to learn about the Bible. Lay people play an important role in the life and work of the church. I wonder how many Canadians would give up every Saturday to attend a three-year course like this.

One husband and wife, along with their six-year-old daughter, leave at 5 a.m. every Saturday to travel the 60 kilometers to the institute. They leave two younger children at home with relatives. I admire the dedication and commitment of these students and the volunteer professors.



-Janice Carter with students and their six-year-old daughter at Ecumenical Institute, Havana.



- Produce in the peasant's market. One pineapple or banana can cost 50 cents.

The economic embargo seriously affects the lives of ordinary Cubans. Everyday items such as soap, medicine, toothpaste, are in short supply in Cuba. Rev. Carlos Ham says the continued U.S. embargo not only hurts ordinary Cubans, it strengthens Cubans' revolutionary resolve. People may have misgivings about the socialist form of government existing in Cuba but basic education, housing and medical care are provided.

Cuba has recently opened the doors for foreigners and deserves understanding and support. New investment laws have encouraged countries from Europe, Canada and Mexico into joint ventures in mining, sugar and tourism.

Since the economic collapse of its former trading partner, the Soviet Union, Cuba has been struggling for economic survival. Economic problems, unemployment and growing tourism are some of the reasons why many people have turned to earning much needed U.S. dollars through prostitution.

An average monthly salary is only the equivalent of 15US$. People are given a ration book entitling them to buy a limited amount of beans, rice, sugar and eggs.

Many of the once beautiful buildings and houses in the harbour city of Havana are in need of repair. Money for paint and material for restoration is not available. Many churches are in need of repairs. Some have been damaged by hurricanes.

- Members at Nuevas Paz gathered at short notice early Friday afternoon to meet with Canadian visitors.

It was a rich experience to travel to Cuba and meet Christians there. I am thankful for this opportunity to see firsthand the life and witness of the Church in Cuba. It was an interesting opportunity to learn the history of Cuba and the struggles which the people faced prior to and following the triumph of the revolution. This historic event took place on January 1st, 1959, ending the country's domination by the US-backed Batista dictatorship.

The Cuban people are faithful and courageous, committed to their church and sharing the gospel message of hope, love and peace.

When The Church Speaks

The statement was received by the General Assembly, June 16, 1997 as the basis for discussion within the Church for the following year (The Acts and Proceedings, p. 347) with the intent to present a revised statement at the 124th General Assembly.

The discussion includes presbyteries, Assembly Council, the Committee on Church Doctrine, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, the International Affairs Committee, the Coalition Caucus and the Justice Ministries Advisory Committee.

To date, we have received comments from former moderators (our thanks to the present moderator for co-ordinating this) and from one presbytery. We are requesting readers of Glad Tidings to remind presbyteries that we need comments and feedback.

We need to receive your comments by the end of January so that we can compile them into a report for submission to the Life and Mission Agency Committee for its meeting in early March.

Comments may be faxed to 50 Wynford Drive, att: Justice Ministries or emailed to sallen@presbyterian.ca or gturner@presbyterian.ca

Thank you for your cooperation.

In peace,
Stephen Allen
Associate Secretary, Justice Ministries

Visiting the Old Homestead

Soft sounds dance
around the empty old house,
peopling each corner and
intense joy whispers
at the doors and windows,
or slides down the stairs.
You hear...
the delighted squeals echo
through the now cold chimney
of a happy Christmas morning.
You recall...
the white light of a candle
in the bay-window reaching out
to share the peace and joy.
You see...
idle after decades
that old bell which reminds
us even now of work, play and prayer.

Suddenly...
a sun ray plays on the old house,
like a smile on a wrinkled face
recalling that very first love.

Lini Richarda Grol

World Alliance of Reformed Churches 23rd General Council
BREAK THE CHAINS OF INJUSTICE

THE DEBRECEN EXPERIENCE

by Anna McCoskery

It's a small world after all
It's a small, small world!

The words to this song proved to be true when I attended the 23rd General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) in Debrecen, Hungary. Those memorable fifteen days from August 5-20, 1997 rate as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Dr. Dorcas Gordon, Toronto; Dr. Michael Caveney, Charlottetown; Rev. Zoltan Vass, Toronto; John MacFarlane, Ottawa, and I, from West Adelaide, Sarnia Presbytery, were the delegates selected by the Ecumenical Relations Committee to represent the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

When I arrived at Budapest Airport, apprehensive about finding a bus to take me the 200 kilometres to Debrecen, I saw a sign with the familiar logo "Break the Chains of Injustice," the theme of this WARC General Council meeting. A young woman greeted me, "Good morning, Anna. Welcome to Hungary!"

This was the first example of the detailed organization of this conference. The young Hungarians, trained as stewards, were there to assist the visitors. All my worries evaporated as Lilla Budai, a university English student, practised her English as she looked after me.

She was interested in learning about "au pair" (nanny) positions in Canada. Because of the high cost of travel to Canada, I suggested she explore opportunities in England. I have written to a friend in England who places young Hungarians in work positions while improving their English. Each summer she drives over to Hungary to recruit new participants. If Lilla obtains a position through Margaret, I will believe "it's a small world!"

The three-hour drive eastward across the Hungarian plains was very interesting. The farming is similar to that done here in Ontario: grain (wheat and barley) was being combined. The corn and bean fields seemed overrun with weeds compared to our farm standards.

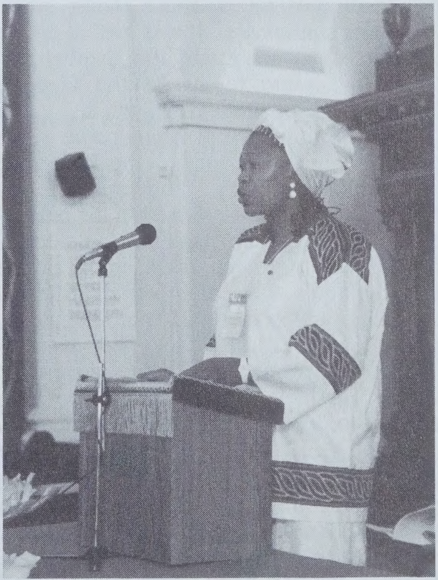
The land was very flat and we could see for long distances as there were few trees. Along the highway were many small villages consisting of individual homes and gardens where the outhouses were located. Larger centres had beautiful Reformed churches.

When our bus pulled into the centre of Debrecen, we were impressed by the beauty and majesty of the yellow Great Church with its towers reaching heavenward above the trees and neighbouring buildings. It is the dominant feature of the city which is often called the "Calvinist Rome." The Great Church was rebuilt in 1805 on the foundations of the old church which was destroyed by fire and is a constant reminder of the history that has taken place here–from independence from the Catholic Hapsburg rulers, to more recent freedom from communist repression. Now another historic event was taking place as over 1,000 people from 104 countries were meeting in this centre of freedom of conscience, to worship and work together to break the chains of injustice.

The next morning, we received a bag containing our important name tag (our admittance to everything), the handbook of schedules and information, Worship Book, *Thuma Mina* (the hymn book with words in many languages) and the translation headset. There was a choice of seven languages: French, English, German, Spanish, Hungarian, Indonesian and Korean. All printed material was translated into four languages: French, English, German and Spanish.

Also in this bag was a large red, yellow and blue fan donated by the Hyoga Dong Church of South Korea. In the absence of air conditioning (and because the windows were stuck fast with recent beautifying paint), the fans were well used.

On my return trip, I saw a man in Amsterdam airport walking around with one of these fans. We had a good laugh when I went up to him and said, "I know where you've been." He was on his way home to Uruguay. It's a small world!



Elizabeth Gana, delegate of the Women's Pre-Conference from the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon.

- Above Lydia Aku Elebu of Ghana presents the PACT report to the General Council.

A women's pre-conference was held before the General Council Meeting. In September 1996, PACT (Programme to Affirm, Challenge and Transform Women and Men in Partnership in Church and Society) was established.

Rev. Nyambura Njorge, a staff member from Kenya, who was assigned full-time responsibilities for women's issues, organized this conference. It was hosted by the women of Hungary and the themes followed the same topics as the General Council which began on August 8.

In her English words of welcome at the opening worship service in the Reformed Teachers' Training auditorium, the Hungarian president referred to the participants as being like a "bouquet of colourful flowers." The women, representing different continents, were members of different churches, and spoke different languages. In spite of these differences they were as one in confessing the same gospel of Christ. Her metaphor might also have been applied to the beautiful native dress of the women from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The opening worship sermon delivered in Hungarian by Rev. Zita Toth was based on Isaiah 58:1-9, the text on wich the conference themes were based. Rev. Toth pointed out the difference between the two kinds of fasting that depend on the attitude of the heart. In human fasting, outward appearances are important, but in that which is important to God, our inner attitude is what He sees. Only when the Holy Spirit works in us will we be able to change our attitudes and take action for change.

Overviews of the Sections: Reformed Faith and the Search for Unity, and Justice for All Creation, were given respectively by Rev. Elizabeth Nash of the United Reform Church, Nottingham, England, and by Florentine Ramambaso, President of the Women's Association of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar. Prof. Sara Baltodano-Mahecha, Costa Rica, now teaching at the Presbyterian Seminary of Fortaleza, Brazil gave the message for Section 111: Partnership in God's Mission.

During the two days the women forged friendships within their language groups as they told their stories of economic injustice, genocide, the effects of war, isolation, pollution, health care and government regulations. We heard stories of economic struggles from women of many nations who must be constantly concerned with making ends meet for their family's welfare.

In India, multinational companies are moving in and employing fewer people, the majority of whom are women. In Egypt, and some other developing countries where the World Bank dictates economic actions for open market trade, subsidies on food, clothing and medicine have been reduced. In the west, in U.S.A. and Canada (Ontario is a recent example) government payments to women and children have been reduced to this powerless group who have no voice to protest.

In my discussion group I met Lynda Parks Sahadat, who had been a supervisor in the renal unit at Victoria Hospital in London. She worked with my sister's close friend, Marg Finnigan.

While managing the Kapuskasing Hospital, she met and later married Rev. Joseph Sahadat. Now they are in Grenada on a three-year mission assignment for the

- Left to right: Joseph Sahadat, Anna and Lynda Sahadat.

Presbyterian Church in Canada. Lynda and I have worked out a plan to share our old blue hymn books with Joseph's two congregations. Lynda and I now communicate by e-mail. What a small world!

Lynda told our group about the "brainwashing" effects of western advertising on some people which entice them to buy expensive imported products rather than local ones. In Grenada people buy orange juice bottled by the U.S.A. which has become a status symbol, while locally grown citrus fruits rot on the ground. Peter has been working hard to organize a juicing plant to set up business in the area.

African delegates told horror stories of the results of civil unrest in Nigeria, Kenya, Mozambique and The Congo, where women and children suffer the most. It is usual for many of the men to leave their families so they can have an easier life. As a result many children live on the streets to survive.

The serious problems of female infanticide in India and China were discussed.

There were some positive stories of broken chains of injustice. In Lesotho, women civil servants of this former colony were not pensionable, but since 1993 this has changed, and married women are now also receiving pensions upon retirement. I struck up a friendship with Alina Mosebo Chabane of Maseru, Lesotho, a nurse who was in this group.

I had spent a summer in Lesotho, and we had some very frank talks about the political and social situations then and now, and the changes that have taken place. Alina's minister, Glory, was also at the conference. They had a small display about the drop-in centre in their church. To raise funds, they sold calendars. I recognized the unusual church architecture on this calendar as the church located by the market and the bus terminal in Maseru. What a small world!

The women from India talked about women finding out that "things are possible" if they can band together. SEWA (Self-employment Women's Association) has made a difference. In flooded areas women received loans from various banks (willing to risk) and have started small projects such as weaving, raising chickens or pigs, to earn money for their families.

The Indian parliament has decreed that one-third of the seats in a village government must be for women. Of the 500 members in the parliament, thirty-five percent are reserved for women. About a month ago I read in the paper that, unfortunately, the Indian parliament had revoked this Act.

The Supreme Court of India has ruled against the old custom of a Moslem man divorcing his wife by stating the fact three times. Now a Moslem man must support his wife and family, a son to age 18 and a daughter until she marries.

Non-governmental organizations with many women as leaders are breaking the chains of injustice in some countries. In Egypt, NGO's pressed for the elimination of female circumcision. Jihan Sadat did much to bring change to the custom of Moslem men divorcing their wives so easily, and leaving families in dire poverty.

The consensus of the group was that education is the key so that women can learn about alternatives for change and new concepts.

Gifts and address cards were exchanged among the women. The Hungarian women gave us special hand-embroidered bookmarks as souvenirs. My Helen Scott Society friends at West Adelaide made

- The Great Church, Debrechen.

many "cross in my pocket" gifts for me to give to new friends, along with Canadian flag pins from Lambton-Middlesex M.P., Rose-Marie Ur. These gifts were received with enthusiasm.

A woman visitor commented on my earrings. "Oh, you're wearing the Celtic cross, the cross of St. Columba. Our church is the St. Columba Presbyterian Church." I peered at her name tag and saw that she was from Mauritius. I asked, "Did you have Rev. Talbot as your minister?" Three years ago Rev. and Mrs. Talbot had been our prayer partners.

This forged a link between dynamic petite Margaretha Yiptong and me. Her church has a work program making attractive bookmarks using tropical flowers from Mauritius for the Christian Blind Mission International of Stouffville, Ontario. Her delight was boundless when she learned that I live not far from Stouffville in Ontario. It's a small world!

Another serendipitous surprise was meeting our present prayer partner, Arlene Onuoha's female co-worker from her office in Aba, Nigeria. It happened that Rev. Uma Onwunta and I were seated beside each other one mealtime. It's a small world!

The last evening of the Women's Preconference closed with a pageant "Celebrating Broken Chains of Injustice." Women, whose eyes were covered with scarves listened to the readings in Hungarian, German, Spanish, English (my part), and French. The scarves, were removed at the end when the words "Let there be light" were repeated in the five languages.

A huge candle was lit, then Bibles in the five languages were brought forward and placed by the candle to symbolize the Word of God as the source of breaking the chains of injustice. Two women told their personal stories, symbolically honouring all the women who have worked so hard to break the chains of silence and prejudice.

Our report of the Women's Pre-conference was presented later to the General Council by Lydia Aku Eleblu of Ghana, an elected member of the Executive. Because chains of injustice still exist in society, the report recommended the PACT program must be continued as part of the WARC structure. The funding for PACT has come from churches in Holland, and will cease next year.

At 7:45 a.m. on Friday, August 8, 1997 more than 2,000 people - delegates, stewards, consultants, special guests and Hungarian Christians filed along the streets and up the steps into the Great Church. It was awesome to be part of this kaleidoscope of colourful national dress contrasting with the sombre Sunday-best clothing of the Europeans and North Americans. Of the 211 member churches, 197 were represented in Debrecen by 445 delegates.

The processional led by the Viszoly Bible of 1570 symbolized our meetings, as the Kantus (the choral group of the Debrecen Reformed College) sang the Hungarian theme song "Break the Chains of Injustice."

The call to worship was given in five languages. It was a very emotional experience to stand in this old church under the high white dome singing the familiar Presbyterian tune "Old 100th", hearing many languages blending with the majestic music of the second largest organ in Hungary.

Scripture and prayers were presented in different languages and the sermon "Justice, Bread, and Beauty" was delivered by Rev. Dr. Abival Pires de Silveira of the

Independent Church of Brazil. Symbols of chains of injustice from different regions were brought forward. We left the church singing and dancing to the recessional hymn from South Africa "We are marching in the light of God."

Daily morning worship commenced at 8:00 a.m. in the Great Church and evening prayers were held in the small Tower of the Great Church under the leadership of the Sisters of Grandchamp, Switzerland. Silence, music and scripture brought the day to a close.

Presentations on the theme "Break the Chains of Injustice" provided thought for the discussions and reports which followed over the next two weeks. Dr. Elsa Tamez, a theologian from Costa Rica, gave a moving address on "Milk" as a biblical image for helping impoverished peoples.

Professor Walter Bruggemann, an old Testament scholar from U.S.A. spoke of the collapse of the old, the vision of what is new, dispute about the future and action for newness. Dr. Leonor Briones, an economist from the Philippines, emphasized the effects of globalization on poverty, unemployment, social disintegration and destruction of the environment.

Speaking from an African point of view, Dr. Aaron Tolen focused on the suffering and survival of the African people whom he feels need to find their own way, to recognize their own complicity, to exorcise every injustice and to redefine their place in the future.

The delegates met in section and subsection groups to discuss issues and to draft reports for the Executive Committee and WARC staff to use as guides for their work over the next eight years. My group-was Justice for All Creation, subsection: National and Ethnic Identity.

We heard instances of cultural and social marginalization; political policies and direct acts of discrimination; forced migration and loss of land (ethnic cleansing) and genocide. Biblical perspectives were sought as these issues were addressed.

Recognizing that there are many different situations of ethnic conflict, this subsection group requested WARC to establish a permanent commission on ethnic and cultural conflict to study differences between groups, suggest ways in which the church can foster reconciliation, monitor abuses and educate churches about the issues of cultural diversity.

In addition to involvement in one of the three sections, each delegate served on one of the sub-committees of the Policy and Public Issues Committee. My group "Ecological Crisis and Climate Change" recommended that WARC act now to join with local and national groups to become part of the wider international network.

After worship each day small groups met for Bible study in language groups. Our booklet of Bible studies was based on Isaiah 58:1-12. It was prepared by contributors from different parts of the world and edited by Dr. Stephen Farris, Executive Committee, Professor of Preaching and Worship in Knox College, and a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Our leader was Rev. Aurelio Garcia, bilingual pastor of a Presbyterian church in Puerto Rica. Other members were from the Church of South India, the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the Evangelical Church in South Africa. In this small group, friendships were quickly formed as we brought our personal interpretations to the Bible study program.

Another highlight was meeting a man who made incredible efforts to come to the General Council. Rev. Vanhei Mathipi from Myanmar (formerly Burma) made a 10-day journey. He walked for three days, rowed a boat for two days, spent two days on a ship before taking a small plane to Rangoon, another plane to Bangkok, another to Zurich, then from there to Budapest which is three hours west of Debrecen.

Rev. Mathipi told me of his life at home where worship in his Mara Evangelical Church is conducted in a metal-roofed shed. During the rainy season, services often cannot be held because the sound of rain on the roof is too loud. Because of the repressive military government, this pastor must write out his sermon in the Mara language in advance so that his messages can be censored. He was very pleased with my gift of the "cross in my pocket." On our last morning in Debrecen, he brought me his special gift - a cross carved from the stone of his country.

A delegate from Sri Lanka read my name tag and asked me what part of Canada I was from. I replied that I was from the central part, near London, Ontario which is a two-hour drive from Toronto. Then he asked, "Do you know anybody from Strathroy?" This man, Rev. Charles Jansz, had preached at the East Reformed Church in my town in 1981 when the minister was ill. At that time he was attending the Seminary in Grand Rapids. He gave me a postcard to take home with me for Ralph and Jacoba Bos of that church who, you can imagine, were surprised at what a small world this seems to be!

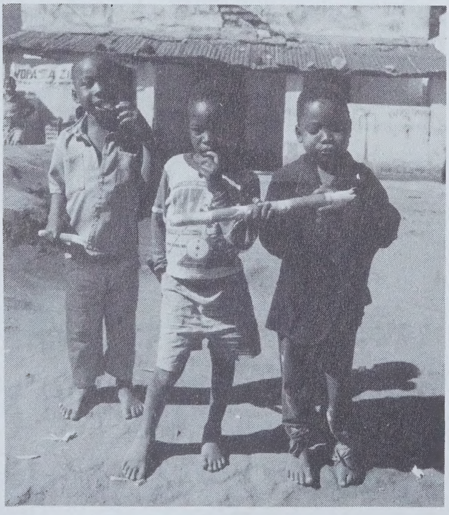
This "Debrecen Experience" has given me a much better perspective of the lives of Christians throughout the world, and the struggles they face. Now the mail brings special surprises to sustain the memories of Debrecen.

I feel very proud and honoured to have had this unique experience representing the Presbyterian Church in Canada at this General Council Meeting of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. I thank God for this opportunity.

My Story: Journey to Africa

by Joan Greer

You shall also love the stranger: for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
Deuteronomy 10:19

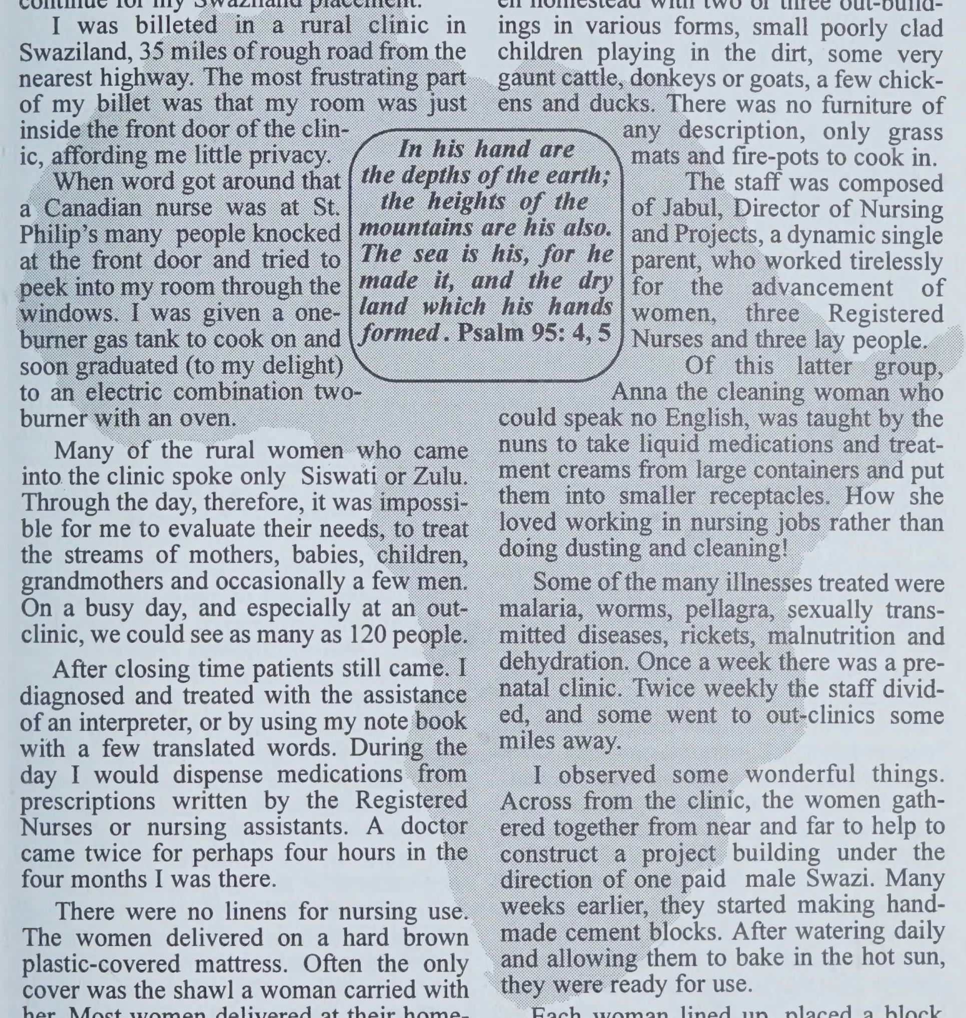


-Boys eating sugar cane in Mulanje.

Since I was a teenager I dreamed of going to China, India or Africa. My opportunity arose when I applied to Canadian Crossroads International, and was accepted as a candidate in the '94 Hamilton Committee. This experience changed my life forever.

Every year CCI sends 135 people to developing countries to assist in a volunteer program and brings about one third of this number to Canada from developing countries. Crossroads' goals are to build a spirit of friendship and co-operation between Canadians and the peoples of the developing world. 'Crossroaders' have to do their own fund-raising to assist with their airfare and billeting overseas.

One day a week was taken from my full time work schedule to raise money or attend 'Developmental Education' seminars. Over the period of one year I attended three compulsory week-ends.



On the last, I met Meg, my Swaziland coordinator. She had been in close contact with me throughout the year and would continue for my Swaziland placement.

I was billeted in a rural clinic in Swaziland, 35 miles of rough road from the nearest highway. The most frustrating part of my billet was that my room was just inside the front door of the clinic, affording me little privacy.

When word got around that a Canadian nurse was at St. Philip's many people knocked at the front door and tried to peek into my room through the windows. I was given a one-burner gas tank to cook on and soon graduated (to my delight) to an electric combination two-burner with an oven.

> ***In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land which his hands formed*. Psalm 95: 4, 5**

Many of the rural women who came into the clinic spoke only Siswati or Zulu. Through the day, therefore, it was impossible for me to evaluate their needs, to treat the streams of mothers, babies, children, grandmothers and occasionally a few men. On a busy day, and especially at an out-clinic, we could see as many as 120 people.

After closing time patients still came. I diagnosed and treated with the assistance of an interpreter, or by using my note book with a few translated words. During the day I would dispense medications from prescriptions written by the Registered Nurses or nursing assistants. A doctor came twice for perhaps four hours in the four months I was there.

There were no linens for nursing use. The women delivered on a hard brown plastic-covered mattress. Often the only cover was the shawl a woman carried with her. Most women delivered at their homestead under very unsterile conditions.

One day the driver 'Lucky' and I visited rural areas, along with other tasks, to deliver large sacks of Canada's white pea beans donated through C.I.D.A. We travelled over eroded, winding lanes, gutted with crater-sized holes, and suddenly there would be a small one-room school with possibly 20-30 children and one or two teachers.

Or we would arrive at a poverty-stricken homestead with two or three out-buildings in various forms, small poorly clad children playing in the dirt, some very gaunt cattle, donkeys or goats, a few chickens and ducks. There was no furniture of any description, only grass mats and fire-pots to cook in.

The staff was composed of Jabul, Director of Nursing and Projects, a dynamic single parent, who worked tirelessly for the advancement of women, three Registered Nurses and three lay people.

Of this latter group, Anna the cleaning woman who could speak no English, was taught by the nuns to take liquid medications and treatment creams from large containers and put them into smaller receptacles. How she loved working in nursing jobs rather than doing dusting and cleaning!

Some of the many illnesses treated were malaria, worms, pellagra, sexually transmitted diseases, rickets, malnutrition and dehydration. Once a week there was a prenatal clinic. Twice weekly the staff divided, and some went to out-clinics some miles away.

I observed some wonderful things. Across from the clinic, the women gathered together from near and far to help to construct a project building under the direction of one paid male Swazi. Many weeks earlier, they started making handmade cement blocks. After watering daily and allowing them to bake in the hot sun, they were ready for use.

Each woman lined up, placed a block on her head and proceeded to the construction site. The only payment was a meal that Jabul and her niece prepared the night before in a large plastic pail, feeding perhaps 20-30 people.

In the late afternoon the women who lived some distance would get a ride home. They packed themselves into the back of

-Left: Proud saleswoman with her pots at St. Philip's, Swaziland; top right: Gertrude Kapuma (right) with Missy's child (Missy was temporary director of Chigodi Women's Centre) and Alice, Ghanian minister; bottom right: Joan Greer going to store in heavy rain.

the small red pick-up, joking and laughing. Nothing was too difficult for them. The babies were there too, snuggled against their mother's backs.

Around 10:00 in the morning the staff would gather for a 'coffee break.' I will always remember these sparkly-eyed Swazis sitting, telling stories–and their laughter that came from deep inside. Occasionally the local priest, Sister Anna Maria or the UNICEF Swaziland coordinator, would join us. These people had so little but seemed so content.

One day I noticed the children lining up at one of the few water taps, each with a different type of plastic bottle. There were perhaps 50 children, but they were patient. There was minimal jostling and joking as they waited their turn.

In a high school program they were growing their own vegetables. I watched as they very carefully watered the plants. The garden was quite large and there were many types of vegetables. What a beautiful green sight! Due to a yearly drought the growing season is short for many.

In the evening after work I would look for things to do, to keep from feeling homesick. On most of my walks children followed me, wide-eyed with curiosity because I was so different. "Have you got any sweets today Joan?" they would query appealingly.

One day, on a walk to the river, I had a gathering of perhaps 12 children. As we neared the river, they shed their clothes and jumped into the water. It was such a delight to observe them happily frolicking in the cool water of the Mhlatuze River. They were amused by the simplest of pastimes.

In Durban, South Africa, I wandered through the famous Indian market, taking in its sights, sounds and delicious aroma of blended curries. In Cape Town area I travelled out on the Cape by train and experienced the segregation of the apartheid movement, although by this time Mandela had been freed and was now President.

A white couple approached me as I waited for a train with a black African friend and said I shouldn't be in that area, as it was for the third class. Needless to say I didn't move, much to the consternation of my friend.

I spent an afternoon with families in one of the 'Townships' where thousands of poor dwell in little shacks under dire poverty. I was driven past an area called 'District 6' in Cape Town. For generations the 'coloureds' had lived here. About 50 years ago their community was totally bulldozed and people were moved miles away. It had been their home, their land, but to this day no one has built there.

> ***In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35 NRSV**

The land remains a wasted barren area, devoid of trees or anything beautiful, a reminder to the world of past horrors. The street signs were collected and are on a wall of a small church in Cape Town. The artifacts left, such as a child's shoe or a man's toque, were collected and now rest in a small museum in the area.

The Church gave me an exposure grant. Without this I believe I never would have journeyed further than South Africa. Now I had a big challenge–to travel alone on rural buses and trains to reach Malawi. In Lusaka, Zambia I spent one night in a Salvation Army Hostel.

I was invited to use the married couple's kitchen to cook in as there wasn't one in the hostel. When I opened the fridge there was no food inside. I asked if they had anything for their supper. The reply was that someone had gone to shop for the evening meal. This stark reality was repeated again and again for me.

The next day I stayed with the Brothers at the Kachere Seminary, between the Zambian and Malawian borderposts. This was a rich experience for me, and probably a little startling for them, to have an older (in African terms) woman visit, carrying a pack.

The meals I shared with them were times of curiosity both for them and myself. I told them all about the organization that I represented, and they shared their work and their homelands. Here I felt very secure and rested well.

In Malawi, my final destination, I met some wonderful people in the Presbyterian synod. Gertrude Kapuma arranged all my visiting. She had been in charge of the Chigodi Women's Centre but had recently been demoted to hospital visitor after she led a delegation of women to protest women's rights. Through her I visited the Polio Rehabilitation Centre.

Paul, Gertrude's husband, proudly showed me around. Here I met a young priest with tuberculosis of the spine, a disease which appeared to be more prevalent in Malawi. There had been a new addition to a very modern bright building, a large physiotherapy room complete with some fine equipment. Now patients would not have to go out for treatment.

In the parking lot stood a large van that said 'Rotary International' in large letters. This was a very pleasant sight as this organization had contributed to my fund-raising back in Canada. I was driven across the city to the Rehab's workshop where several disabled men were housed, many who were stricken in past years, their muscles and limbs atrophied by polio.

They were all working on various projects: wheel-chairs, tricycles, special shoes, chairs for disabled children. All the revolving fixtures were made from bicycle parts. The seats were made from plywood and the shoes were constructed from old tires. Clusters of bicycle parts, wheels and rubber tires hung from hooks on the ceiling. Some men sat on the floor busily moulding and constructing. I was deeply moved by what I saw. Outside, Paul showed me where they were growing fruit trees and a small garden so that this place could be self-sustaining.

One morning a lovely, large-boned young woman named Regina, accompanied me to a Women's Guild Meeting in a small rural church outside of Blantyre. I sat on the platform with Regina and the executive. The service was much like ours. I was introduced and asked to say a few words, which were translated to about 20-30 women and four men.

The delightful part of this experience was when we stood outside and the women started to sway gently, heads tilted back, joyously singing and clapping their hands. Afterwards I was treated with cookies and pop at the minister's house. I was overwhelmed when they presented me with an earthen bowl.

Alice, a beautiful, jovial ordained Ghanaian minister accompanied me to Mulanje, a very poor town in southern Malawi. We travelled over a very narrow road through lush green countryside, laden with tea and coffee plantations owned by wealthy industrialists in the first world. I toured the hospital–many red brick buildings joined by covered walk-ways.

Many of the cases were obstetrical. Any serious cases were referred to Blantyre hospital as they had many more specialists in the city, including a program for severely malnourished children. Some fund-raising by churches in the U.S.A., Canada and the United Kingdom is done to buy eggs for this program. In all the hospitals family members assisted with daily routines.

Towards evening we drove to the foot of Mt. Mulanje to spend the night in a conference centre. Alice had called the director to inform him of our coming, but he got the message too late and as a result there was no food prepared for us. (Perhaps there just wasn't any food available.)

Alice went out and found a small tin of fish. She made a meal out of this with rice, an onion and tomato we were carrying. I was reminded of the five loaves of bread and two fish that Jesus fed to thousands of people, so no one would return home hungry. Alice told me some of the personal trials the women in Malawi have to bear. It was truly a memorable night for me.

When we arrived at the gate of the centre some young boys were there with handmade wooden articles to sell. We were tired and said we would see them later, but they were persistent. The next day these ragged children again presented themselves. I bargained with them. They kept plying me with how useful their craft would be.

The next day Alice and I went up near the top of the mountain. We paid one boy to guard the van, and another to escort us to the waterfall. Later when we were ready to leave, a young man came up to the director and said that he would have to close the carpenter shop as someone had stolen the tools.

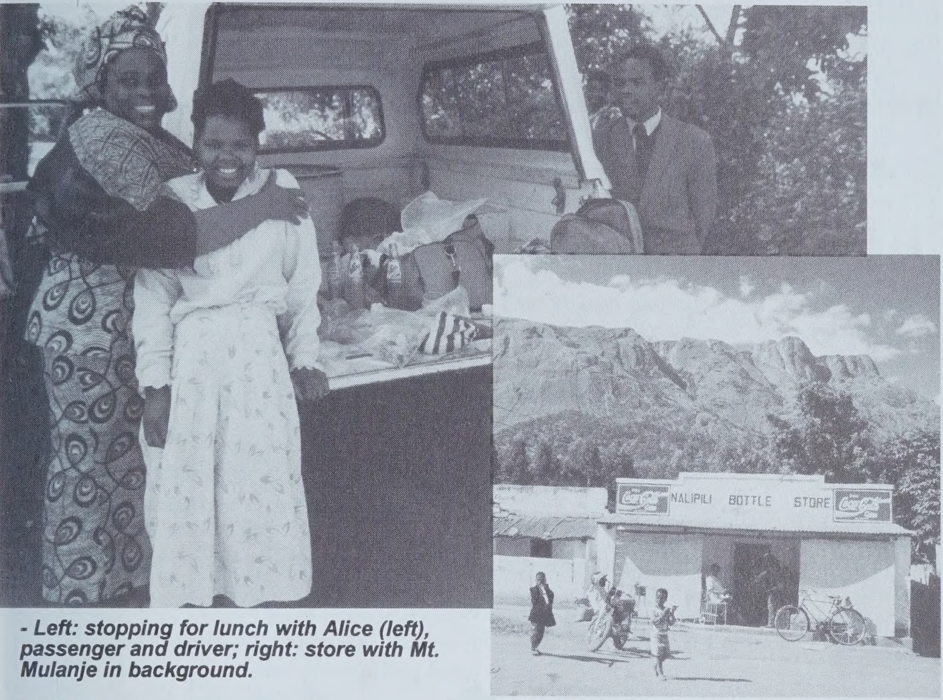
When I returned home I raised money for this project with the help of many kind friends. The Malawian workers who lived in the area were negotiating to get some of the plantation land back so that they could grow their own vegetables, a very difficult task as the government is still very unstable and the country is one of the poorest in the world.

At Ekwendeni I visited Rose Janson and learned about her work in the large agriculture project there, teaching organic farming. Again I toured the hospital. Here I met an older woman who was filling in for a few months, teaching obstetrics. It was the same wherever I went in Malawi, meeting such wonderful people who were giving of their time and energy. I marvelled at the dedication of these missionaries.

Ekwendi had a beautiful thriving marketplace. It was wonderful walking through the rows of wares, talking to the people, watching as three artisans moulded and hammered aluminum pots and pails together.

Visiting Livingstonia, in northern Malawi I stayed in the first home built for the first minister when he arrived at this very high plateau around 1900. The walls were very thick, and the rooms large and square. This plain gray 'stone house' stood at the edge of the plateau so that you could sit on the wide verandah and look out over a grand vista, one of the most beautiful in Africa. On descent, I stood enthralled at the breathtaking view before me, looking out over Lake Malawi and further north to Tanzania.

The clinic was built here because so many missionaries were dying from malaria and, as there were no mosquitoes here, it was reasoned that this would be a good place to recover. It was a small paradise unto itself.



- Left: stopping for lunch with Alice (left), passenger and driver; right: store with Mt. Mulanje in background.

My last three days in Malawi I stayed in Llilongue with retired Korean missionaries in their lovely comfortable house, the walls adorned with beautiful Malawian wood carvings.

In mid afternoon I was awakened with the loud cries of a baby. After listening for what seemed like hours, I investigated. The distressed infant was the son of my hosts' cook. The child needed medication and the cook had no money until next pay day in about another two weeks. When my hosts were told about the serious need, the situation was rectified.

As I spoke to the cook at the entrance to his little home I was shocked to see that there was no furniture, only some shawls and cooking pots on the floor. Such contrast in the two homes side by side.

When I arrived at my daughter's in Britain I had a bad case of culture shock. I could not get this family out of my mind, even though I had been everywhere and seen everything. They seemed to be the focal point to bring everything crashing inside me. It was as if this child was crying out to me for all of Africa.

Upon my return to Canada the culture shock did not wear off easily. I kept thinking that little drops of water make a stream and that I would have to work with others to help improve the world for those who were less fortunate.

After my return I met with a 'Women in Development' group. We came to the conclusion that Malawi was so much like the times when Jesus was on earth–the dusty roads, barren brown hills, drawing cool water from a well, the reticence of the women, colourful garments, bargaining in a market place, churches filled on Sunday, inside and out. In Malawi you could easily be reminded of Jesus on a hillside speaking to thousands. One thing I will never forget is that small group of dedicated missionaries struggling to serve Africa and its people.

MOSES

A Puzzle

by Jim Phillips

B	U	L	R	U	S	H	E	S	E	Q
P	U	L	R	E	V	O	S	S	A	P
I	S	R	A	E	L	I	T	E	S	E
S	W	K	N	A	H	T	A	D	P	P
G	X	A	Z	I	P	P	O	R	A	H
A	T	A	S	I	N	A	I	D	B	A
H	J	Z	Y	O	M	G	D	O	F	R
R	V	J	O	C	H	O	B	E	D	O
O	C	A	L	E	B	E	M	U	C	A
H	H	E	L	I	N	L	C	N	S	H
T	A	W	V	T	A	E	C	O	L	H
N	R	I	N	P	L	A	G	U	E	S
U	I	U	Q	B	Z	Z	N	U	F	R
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M	T	S	J	G	E	R	S	H	O	M
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M	G	T	H	G	B	M	A	L	R	E
A	Y	I	R	E	D	S	E	A	O	S
X	H	J	O	S	H	U	A	W	N	K

AARON
AMRAM
BULRUSHES
BURNING BUSH
CALEB
CHARIOTS
DATHAN
EGYPT
ELEAZAR
GERSHOM
ISRAELITES
JETHRO
JOCHOBED
JOSHUA
KADESH
LAMB
LAW
MOSES
MOUNT HOR
MOUNT NEBO
NILE
PASSOVER
PHAROAH
PLAGUES
PISGAH
RED SEA
SINAI
TABLETS
ZIPPORAH

ENGLISH BOYS' CHOIR IN ROMANIA

by Brian Johnston

- Brian conducting one of his English choirs in Romania.

For the last four years I have been working as an English and music teacher in the theological seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Cluj, Romania.

In October 1996 I decided to form an English boys' choir which would give those students who were interested a chance to further both their vocal abilities and English skills. Thirty-two students enlisted and continued until the end of the academic year.

Many of the students had no previous choral experience although others had been members of an extremely good high school choir. I chose a variety of choral material involving canons, four part gospel songs and some unison selections with guitar accompaniment, including the Canadian *Huron Carol.*

Singing in four parts (TTBB) proved especially challenging and rewarding and it was necessary to have sectional rehearsals in order to teach the music efficiently.

Our first performance was at a local reformed church in December 1996. I invited two opera singers, a soprano and an alto, to join us and enhance our presentation. We were well received by the congregation who joined us in "Silent Night" to conclude our singing.

On the next weekend we repeated our performance in a local art gallery where I had been invited to do an exhibition of photos entitled "Impressions of Romania". It was a wonderful way to open an exhibition and I could combine the three facets of my work here: teaching English, music and photography.

In March we went on an excursion to two village churches about 125 kilometres from Cluj. We sang in the morning in the first village as part of the Sunday service, and in the afternoon in a village nearby which holds their big Sunday service at five o'clock in the afternoon. In this way we were able to sing for 800 people in one day.

Since all of my students will one day be pastors it is good for them to see as many congregations as possible through their singing of the gospel. The trip was financed using funds donated by the youth group of New St. James Presbyterian Church, London, ON.

All people involved including myself have really appreciated this thoughtful contribution. Many churches here have no regular choral singing, so visiting choirs are extremely welcome.

Another aspect of our work was visiting a special handicapped centre in our town. The students here are mostly teenagers with some physical handicap. This was a very worthwhile exchange involving a high level of interaction. I am planning to continue this activity in the next academic year and we have already had many invitations to perform throughout Transylvania.

Another concert is being arranged in our sanctuary when we will sing "Old Man River" from "Showboat" involving a well-known bass from the Opera Company here.

Our students here very much appreciate the support of our Canadian friends.

Sing to the Lord a New Song. Come before his presence with thanksgiving.

Life in Jobat

by Kimberley Reid

Kimberley Reid reports further on her four months in Jobat, India (see November/December 1997 Glad Tidings, p 35).

By living in and wholly immersing myself in this village community, I gained amazing insights into an extremely exquisite society intensely different from any I've ever experienced.

One aspect of the culture which I found very interesting involves the status of women. ...women do not have the same freedoms and opportunities as men. At the beginning of my trip I received several 'warnings', or 'tips' on proper rules of conduct. I was told that young women should not associate with any men, i.e. do not talk to them, walk with them, smile at them, or even look at them as it may give them the wrong idea, and give me a bad reputation!

A young woman, such as myself, should never leave the confines of her home without an appropriate escort. Clothing is a huge issue. ...showing any skin can result in dire consequences. I discovered many more 'rules of conduct' inadvertently through the process of trial and error. A nursing student named Archana clarified the issue of women's 'freedoms' when she stated that she felt as though she was "living in a prison".

The poverty of most of the people in Madhya Pradesh captured my thoughts and attention. Many people there do not enjoy simple necessities such as a well-balanced diet, accessible and clean water which is readily , reliable electricity, job security, a dependable justice system and even the comfort of shoes on their feet.

Luxuries such as toys for the children to play with, telephones, computers, restaurants, shopping malls, old-age pensions, social assistance (welfare), sophisticated health care, refrigeration, or even a leisurely book are basically unheard of. The contrast between the extravagance of Canadian society and the simplicity of typical Indian society is incredible.

Through working in the hospital I gained an awareness of the state of health care in India, early exposure to many medical procedures, insight into the workings of a dedicated Christian institution, and an increased knowledge of and interest in international medicine.

Broadly again, through living in the Christian community of Jobat, I gained a new outlook and clearer personal understanding of mission and its role in the Third World, realized the real contrasts in value systems which exist cross-culturally, and generally began questioning my perspectives on a lot of issues.

Also, I have a renewed understanding of God, and a closer relationship with Him. I don't know if I am a stronger Christian yet, but I am definitely a more devoted and excited Christian! One of the main reasons I wanted to embark upon this journey to India was to "grow in my faith", and I sure achieved that goal!

Life is like a mosaic. Each piece of the mosaic depicts a specific idea, image, emotion, lesson, impression, or memory derived from a distinct experience. There is no symmetrical shape or form, and no discernible pattern to this collage that represents one's life. A single experience may be represented by many, many very distinct pieces and contrasting places on the mosaic.

Each adventure and encounter is represented on the mosaic, whether we realize its presence or not. The mosaic is always changing. New pieces are added, enlarging the artwork. Old pieces are replaced or hidden. The mosaic is dynamic. It is continually being simplified. Yet at the same time it steadily becomes more complex. I believe that as artists, our challenge is to clarify and refine the mosaic that depicts our life.

My experiences in India as an overseas volunteer for the Life and Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada this summer were vast and diverse.

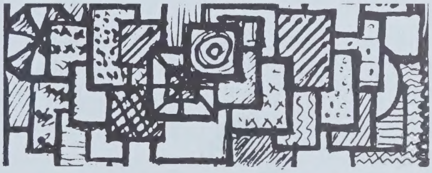
Each unique experience affected me in many ways. My time in Jobat has certainly altered the collage of my life, both on the external edges of the canvas and at the very center of the artwork. I know I will always cherish the memories of the past summer, and I am sure I will continually rediscover different aspects of my trip along the path of my life. Thank you for this unique and incredible opportunity.

KOREAN FAMINE RELIEF

Presbyterian World Service & Development is committed to providing food for North Korea, as long as assistance is required. Donors wishing to make contributions to North Korea should make cheques payable to PWS&D, mark them North Korea and forward them to:

Presbyterian World Service & Development **- North Korea**
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7

All money raised will be forwarded to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



Self Pity

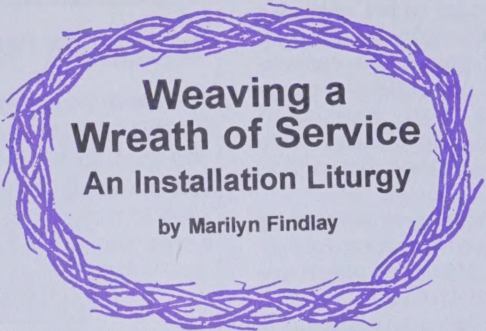
Self pity is one of the worst evils with which we have to contend. We are all possessed by it at times. An imaginative hurt to our pride happens, and we become morose and hateful, fanning a spark of pity until it bursts into a fire which eats into our very souls, leaving terrible scars.

We can all expect to feel sorry for ourselves now and then. It's all part of a cycle around which living revolves. If only we could get a firm grip on our feelings when we feel these moods coming on, sort of talk to ourselves as though we were someone else.

If you found a friend in a bad mood, you'd try to lift him or her out of it. The next time you are angry at someone for what they have done to you, grit your teeth, and be as nice as possible to that person. It will take a lot of courage, but you will be surprised at the results.

Once I heard a woman say: "I will not ruin my soul by allowing anyone to make me hate them." All it takes is a little pride. Most of us have plenty of that.

Gladys Nolan



Weaving a Wreath of Service

An Installation Liturgy

by Marilyn Findlay

Advance Preparation

Note: You will need to purchase ribbon and buy or make a grapevine wreath, and have available small pieces of the wreath or twigs.

Tie narrow, bright ribbon to short pieces of grapevine (available at craft stores) or twigs. Make two for each person being installed.

Weave undecorated grapevine (or other pliant vine) into a wreath, to be held by the leader as a symbol. Also needed are copies of this order of worship, a Bible, and *The Book of Praise, 1997.*

Preparing the Setting

Invite everyone present to form a circle. The installer, holding the wreath, stands in the center of the circle or places the wreath on a stand in the center and takes her place as part of the circle. When all are in place, an assistant distributes two ribbon-tied pieces of grapevine to each leader who is to be installed.

The Ceremony

Read the names of retiring leaders and thank them. Then, read the names of all the *executive**, including new leaders. (*Italicized words have been changed from the original to suit our organization.)

Hymn: "Called as partners in Christ's Service" #587 (Book of Praise 1997)

Scripture: John 15:1-12

Installer: Will all who are able please stand?
Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches." We who believe in Him are offshoots of Christ's presence on earth. As *Christians*, we give back to God fruits of our lives. All together, we form this circle like vines wound into a wreath, a shape that is round, with no beginning and no end, symbolizing God's eternal love and creation.

I ask all leaders, new and continuing, to form a circle within the larger circle, much as *the Women's Missionary Society* is formed–small groups within congregations and within *The Presbyterian Church in Canada*.

(Leaders form an inner circle.)

Installer: Leaders, you are elected to enable the work of *the Women's Missionary Society* in this *congregation/presbyterial/synodical*. The fruits of your labor will be a blessing to

God and to yourself. Will you use your gifts to work for God through your office? If so, say, “I will.”

Executive: I will.

Installer: Do you believe this organization is part of the true vine, which is Christ, watered by the same Holy Spirit and rooted in the same faith as all other parts, to do God’s work in the world? If so, say, “I do.”

Executive: I do.

Installer: Leaders, your responsibility is to guide the women of this congregation to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ. Your job is to find ways in which women can be challenged to be part of this mission. Your commitment will set an example. Do you accept or renew your leadership responsibilities? If so, respond, “I do.”

Executive: I do.

Installer: Members of *the WMS*, you have heard the promise of your elected leaders. They can do their work only if you support them. Do you pledge this support? If so, respond, “We do.”

All: We do.

Installer: Consider the bits of grapevine in your hands. Individually, they signify your personal commitment and, together, they make a wreath of fellowship and mission. Pieces added to the wreath I hold in my hand signify the common commitment to service we share as members of *the Women’s Missionary Society*. This wreath will increase in size as we add new branches in the year to come.

As we part, take one branch home to remind yourself of your promises, and place one in our common wreath as a sign of your promise to be faithful to the growth and work of *the WMS*.

Unison Closing Prayer: Dear God, our Creator and Sustainer, thank you for showing all of us new ways of service. Let each one of us find a place to weave our skills and talents into a wreath of joy, remembering always to “love one another as you have loved us.” In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Marilyn Findlay is Presbyterian Women moderator at Bertha E. R. Strosacker Memorial Presbyterian Church, Midland, Michigan, where this installation service was first used.

– Reprinted with permission from HORIZONS, March/April 1997.

Note: Other installation services may be obtained from Margaret (Greig) Robertson, WMS Program Secretary.

A pamphlet prepared by the Treasurer “Endowment Funds” lists funds and bursaries available to students, ministers, individuals, and for the work of mission and youth. For further information contact Charlotte Brown, WMS Executive Secretary.

Keeping The Faith

by Gladys Nolan

Ten days after Christmas, and already there were signs of unrest. Shoppers were annoyed; tired mothers were shouting at their children, who in turn were shouting at their siblings, who in turn were taking it out on the dog or cat. Children were fighting in the street, new toys already forgotten. Where, oh where, had all the joy of the big celebration gone? What happened to "Peace On Earth"?

Thoughts of Christmas arriving does strange and wonderful things for most of us mortals. It is almost weird the way people behave as they catch the spirit. It affects the majority. Smiles are evident as people rush around planning what gifts to buy, or arranging trips to exotic places. Thoughts of families being together again brings great joy.

To many, the celebration is of Christ's birth, and the hopes and fears we have for the world. It gives an almost magic touch to our lives in the weeks of preparation, a real feeling of love for all humanity.

At church services the celebration of Advent is very meaningful. Each week, for four weeks before Christmas, a candle is lit. The candle is a symbol of the light of the world, Jesus Christ, who experienced life even as we do. He is God personified.

Ever mindful of the power we receive in our belief as Christians, I asked a young lad I met now and then if he said his prayers.

"No," was the firm reply.

"Don't you believe in God?"

"Yeah, I guess so", he hesitated, "but all that stuff is just a story."

"But who do you think takes care of you?" I asked.

"My mom", came the quick reply.

I was stumped. If he hadn't been brought up in a Christian home, how could I plant even one seed in his young mind? I was saddened to realize how much he would miss by not believing in my God, and determined then and there to try to show by my example just what being a Christian means. That might take years, but with faith all things are possible. I prayed often for that boy to know Christ and to follow His example.

Something I said to him must have rubbed off. Several days later he asked me questions about my church.

"Would you like to go with me sometime?" I asked, being careful to tell him to ask his mother first.

"Yeah, that'd be neat."

He did come with me. I had him enrolled in Sunday School. He found it so "neat", he kept going until he was quite a grown up young man. He lives far away from me now, but he writes to me, and has found much comfort and strength in his Christian faith.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Now a brand New Year begins to unfold. Let us keep the faith in our hearts as we venture into its unknown depths of joy and trouble. And let us remember that our Saviour, who knew such joy and trouble, walks with us.

A TASTE FOR JUSTICE

TEN DAYS for Global Justice is a community-based education and ACTION program of the Canadian churches. Our 1998 program focuses on alternative trade that puts people ahead of profits. Our action focuses on fairly-traded coffee that gives Southern coffee farmers a fair return while respecting the Earth. If you want to take action that moves from charity to justice; if you enjoy creative education and worship; and if you'd like to take the bitterness out of your coffee— please join us!

TEN DAYS has local groups in communities across Canada who welcome interested churches, students and individuals. Our resource package has material for workshops, worship, creative action, and theatre and is suitable for a wide range of interests and ages. For more information on the program, to contact your local TEN DAYS group, or to order a package, contact:

TEN DAYS at 77 Charles St. West, Ste. 401, Toronto ON M5S 1K5. Tel (416) 922 0591 FAX (416) 922 1419 E-mail: tendays@web.net Check out our website: http://www.web.net/~tendays

CGIT Annual Meeting and an Explorer Workshop Hosted by Ottawa

On Saturday, April 25th, the Ontario CGIT Association will hold their annual meeting at Bell's Corners United Church, 3955 Richmond Road, Nepean. At the same time and in the same church the Ontario Explorer Committee is sponsoring a workshop for Explorer Leaders.

Details will be ready by the end of January. For information as to time and registration fee which will include lunch, please contact Shirley Sandziuk (6130 828-8329, Linda Hearty (613) 824-7071 or call or write the Ontario CGIT Association, 310 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, ON M4K 1N6, (416) 465-5726 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Staff Changes

The WMS said "farewell" recently to Dorothy Ruddell (left), and to Judy Lee (centre) who left their positions in the WMS Book Room. To their right is Trish Heidebrecht who has replaced Dorothy as Manager of the Book Room.

Irene

Only a girl from a little town
Wise in the ways of life.
She knew right from wrong
And with a faith so strong,
She could cope with any strife.

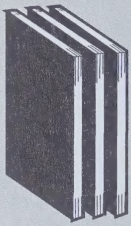
Only a wife to a man of God
His partner, help-mate, friend.
She was always there
With a hymn or a prayer
She was steadfast to the end.

Only a Mom to four young men
Raised in a home full of love.
She showed them the way
To live every day
Guided by Their Father above.

Only a grave in a quiet spot
Where gentle breezes play.
For the soul took wing
To where angels sing
Only a breath away.

Doris Binding

– A tribute to Irene Marnoch, on the first anniversary of her death, October 28th, 1997. St. John's Presbyterian Church Newsletter, Winnipeg.



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Please do not send payment with your order. (An invoice including postage and applicable tax will be sent with your order.) Please include name and location of congregation.

Penguins + Golden Calves: Icons and Idols by Madeleine L'Engle. Northstone. G4102 $20.00
When she is not on an inflatable raft negotiating Antarctic waters, Madeleine L'Engle might be found on a plane headed for England, New York, Chile or the Canadian Rockies. Using the rich and startling beauty of Antarctica as a backdrop, she talks about icons as something we can look through to get a wider glimpse of God. She explains how ordinary things - family, words, the Bible, heaven, even penguins - can reveal the glory of God.

Part travelogue and part spiritual tourbook, this new book by one of the world's best loved story theologians will be a place you will want to visit again and again.

Genesis Trilogy: And It Was Good; A Stone For A Pillow; Sold Into Egypt by Madeleine L'Engle. Northstone. G5074 $29.95
Why does Genesis matter today? No matter who took the first bite of the apple or how the world came to be, these stories are important, just as each of our own life stories is important. The people of Genesis were a complex mix of grief and glory, of failings and triumphs, of the mundane and the holy. And, Madeleine L'Engle reminds us, so are we. We can learn from the wisdom of those who came before us.

Genesis Trilogy has a strong appeal for readers exploring creativity and spiritual renewal. In this one-volume collection of her classic works, *And It Was Good, A Stone For A Pillow, Sold Into Egypt,* Madeleine L'Engle offers a superb mix of the Genesis story and personal reflection.

Dream of a New Life. The United Church Publishing House. G6200 $6.95
Have you ever visited somewhere less affluent expecting to have to "rough it" a little? Have you ever expected to be the giver, only to discover that you must graciously receive, especially from those who have less than you? Imagine your surprise, dismay, discomfort and eventually, delight!

Join six Canadian women who travelled to Kenya as part of a church women's cultural exchange, in a daily adventure of border-crossing spirituality, heart-opening insight, and a new world of friendships founded on respect and sisterhood in Christ.

Although originally prepared for use during Lent, these daily reflections on scripture and the Kenyan visit, make for memorable reading and sharing anytime.

Faith in My Neighbour World Religions in Canada: An Introduction. UCPH. G5622 $12.95
Our world is now more than ever a "global village" with people of different religions and cultures living out their faith side-by-side in neighbourhoods, work places, and within families. *Faith in My Neighbour* offers a valuable opportunity to appreciate and celebrate our neighbours–with renewed faith in them and in ourselves.

Members of sixteen prominent faith groups found in Canada describe for the reader their traditions, history, beliefs and major festivals. This resource is recommended for use by youth and adults.

"*I*"-Witness

I had my fourth baby when I was over forty-five years of age. David was a beautiful nine-pound, four-ounce boy when he was born. His golden hair and broad shoulders resembled his father. My husband was so proud of his son. This was a joyous event for our family.

My father had three daughters, my sisters' families were girls and my three other children were girls. A boy in our midst was a long awaited male addition to our extended family.

Everything went well for ten weeks. My father came to see his grandson at every opportunity. Our eldest girl, who was eighteen, was like a second mother to the baby. The other two girls brought friends in from school to admire their new little brother.

However, David developed an infection in his throat and he was put into the hospital. His father and I were told that he would be fine in a few days. He never stopped drinking his formula nor did he develop a fever. On the day he was eleven weeks old he went into cardiac arrest. The doctors worked on him for two hours to revive him, to no avail. Our David was dead. The grandson, the son, the brother, the new baby on the block was gone.

For several weeks afterwards I would dream that David hadn't died, that he was back looking at me with his dark eyes and everybody was happy again. Of course, when I'd wake up the reality overcame me and the sadness returned.

Then one night the little song went through my head that I had learned as a child in Sunday school.

"Jesus loves the little ones like me me me,
Jesus loves the little ones like me,
Little ones like me, sat upon his knee,
Jesus loves the little ones like me."

After that night the dreams of David stopped and I knew that he was safe with Jesus.

Now I'm the grandmother with two grandsons and three granddaughters.

One of my favourite passages of scriptures is Mark 10:14-16, when Jesus said to his disciples, " 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them."

I have an angel in heaven waiting for me.

Mary L. Fountain, Guelph, ON

Forward in Faith

As I face a new year, I give thanks for my sustained life. In this thankful mood, I contemplate stewardship. What should I be doing with my time, my talents, and my resources? I need to seek God's guidance afresh in my life. Too often, I like to continue in the same old ways. Change can be disturbing. The Lord says in Philippians 4:13: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (NIV)

This is the time of year you may be asked to serve on an executive in some capacity for the Society.

Are your contributions to the Society the same every year? In one Presbyterial, the average contribution to the Society is $275 per year compared to $100 per member at the national level.

Contemplate these words from Isaiah 55:10-11:

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower
and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (NIV)

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

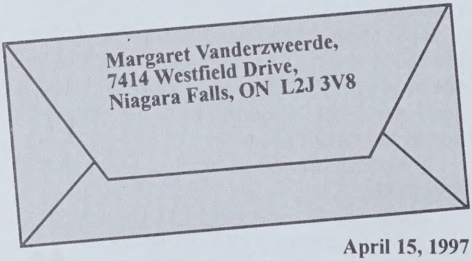
Dear Friends

Update on Dr. Rokaya:

Gerry Kent, author of the article in the Glad Tidings (September/October 1997 page 4) informs us that Dr. Rokaya is "now the Director of the Engineering and Industrial Development Department of UMN (taking my place when I left Nepal in the Spring of this year), the first Nepali to hold a Department Director position in UMN. From all reports I have received he is doing an excellent job.

"One of the things that made this possible was a commitment from the Presbyterian Church in Canada to provide funding to UMN for the salaries of senior Nepali staff like Dr. Rokaya. The rationale behind such a commitment is to help ensure that Nepalis (and especially Nepali Christians) carry forward the process of transformation which God intends in their society.

"Marjorie Ross has indicated that Dr. Rokaya may be invited to speak at a future General Assembly."



Margaret Vanderzweerde,
7414 Westfield Drive,
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 3V8

April 15, 1997

The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) is a Christian Development organization with which the Presbyterian Church in Canada is in partnership, along with over 40 churches and para-church organizations around the world. The UMN was founded in 1954 when eight missions and churches met in Nagpur, India and agreed on eleven guiding principals for the UMN. The first stated that "the objective of the Mission will be to minister to the needs of the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ... and the second "It shall be a fundamental principle to train people of Nepal...."

In Nepal, the only Hindu kingdom in the world, it was illegal to bring the Gospel and the missionaries believed that their development efforts were, in themselves, an effective demonstration and witness of God's love. It is, therefore, a requirement of service with UMN that the workers seconded to them are Christians, living the Gospel.

In 1954 there were only a handful of Christians in Nepal. By the late 1980s they were estimated at about 50,000 in number and, since 1990, when Democracy came to Nepal, this number has grown to an estimated 400,000.

Prior to 1990, and in some areas since then, the Nepali Christians were persecuted, thrown in jail, and tortured. Today there are over 40 partners, most of which send personnel to work in the various divisions of UMN as it works in Health, Education, and Development. Each of these are like an octopus with many arms, and the effects are far reaching.

Most of the seconded personnel are active in the Nepali churches, not in leadership positions, per se, but in supportive roles and as teachers. The future of the Nepali church is with the Nepalis, not the foreigners.

Just to give you an idea of the progress, I will give you a brief history of the project work:

In September, 1954 the dispensary was opened in Tansen where the Tansen Hospital is now located.

In 1955 a hospital was opened in Kathmandu.

In 1957 Community work was started in the Ghorka district, which is very remote, and also a girls' school was opened in Kathmandu.

In 1958 a nursing school was opened in Kathmandu.

In 1961 the Okhaldunga Hospital was opened. This is also in a very remote area, in the foothills of Mount Everest, about five days hiking from Kathmandu.

In 1963 the Butwal Technical Institute was opened.

In 1965 a nation wide training and Scholarship program was begun.

In 1966 the Gandaki Boarding school was opened in Pokhara and the Butwal Power company established.

In 1979 the Tansen Nursing school and Rural Development projects were begun.

In 1981 the first Hydro Electric Power project was begun at Andhi Khola and further rural development projects started in remote areas.

In 1982 Patan Hospital was opened.

In 1985 Mental Health and drug abuse programs were started.

In 1989 Jhimruk Hydro Electric project got off the ground.

In 1990/1991 Democracy was established in Nepal and the Nepal Resource Management Program begun.

1992 the Jhajarkot Non Formal Edcation Project was begun.

In 1993 Khimti Power Project began.

Since then the above have reached out beyond their place of inception and many more very successful programs are ongoing. In health and education the work of UMN has had major impact on the people of Nepal. In all cases the goal of UMN is to, eventually, withdraw and turn the projects over to the Nepalis. The UMN assesses all its community work in terms of self-sustainability and the enhancing of local initiative and leadership.

A term currently in vogue is "empowerment", that is, making people strong–mentally, physically, and spiritually–so that they no longer need to ask outsiders for help, for doing things *for* people can destroy local initiatives and self-confidence, the very things UMN is trying to build up. It requires tremendous wisdom and discernment to decide when to give and when to withhold.

Pray for the leaders at UMN that they be filled and guided by the Spirit.

God's blessings to all,
Margaret*

*Note: Margaret's letters have been edited slightly due to space.

- UMN team work with villagers in Surkhet project.

April 21, 1997

Margaret continues:

From the high hill country of Nepal this letter comes to you to share a few things that are taking place here.

I am in Surkhet, very remote, and quite cool. Last night I enjoyed a wonderful sleep, tucked warmly under a quilt. What a welcome change from the heat in India.

Here, in this rural village, the UMN is involved in a development project which is a pilot program. It is modelled after the theory of Paulo Freire, the Brazilian educator who changed the whole concept of development education.

UMN workers go into the villages, in the target area, just listening to stories, concerns and problems. They may be in a village for weeks before they see any result of their presence. The teams are comprised of mainly Nepali men and women. Only a select few expatriates give leadership.

The team members, through experiential learning, become super leaders. The program uses a people-centred approach to development. It is, therefore people, not money or technology, that is the basis of the Surkhet Rural Development Project.

The success of the same can best be stated in the words of people from villages where the program has been used. To quote:

"Our group has been protecting our forest. From now on when anyone enters the forest and causes damage they will be fined."

"Adult literacy and child education classes have been conducted in our group."

"We have been running a primary

school using our own resources."

"After becoming an organized group and starting to work, we started cleaning our houses and yards and constructed toilets. Three members of our organized group have been chosen for leadership training by the Surkhet Project."

"Our group has decided to stop cutting trees of seven different species in our forest. With the aim to protect the plants, some rules have been established."

"Our grain and cash funds are running well."

"Within a week from organizing, toilets and pits for doing dishes were made to keep the area around the houses and paths clean."

"Unity is strength. We have come to understand that even the most difficult work is possible."

These have been just a few of the comments on changes the villagers themselves had brought about through self analysis and hard work. Their enthusiasm runs high. It was awe-inspiring to observe the dedication of the teams as they, committed to their work of helping people, are instrumental in changing lives, giving, not charity, but chances.

It is also encouraging to see how people respond when given the opportunity to take charge of their own lives, rather than being asked to follow, blindly and without input, the direction of those who decide what is needed rather than those involved.

Shalom.

April 24, 1997

Margaret continues: Still in Nepal, I spent the day with other Board members, visiting various UMN projects in Kathmandu.

I would like to share with you the story of how one woman's life was changed and with it, that of her son and other villagers in her district.

Putali Maya and her six-year-old son were left destitute when her husband died. There were no supporting relatives, the security of a strong family bond and she had little land from which to eke out a meagre income. She was forced to take loans and found herself getting deeper and deeper in debt.

Five years after the death of her husband, Putali heard of a program called VLTP (Village Leather Training Program). A team had come to teach leather skills and when she saw the finished product she decided that she, too, wanted to learn. First she learned the difficult task of cutting and sewing leather, but quickly she learned how to collect and tan hides, making bags to sell in Kathmandu and abroad.

Now, six training sessions and five years later, Putali has paid back all her loans, bought more land and buffaloes, and has renovated her house. Her son, now 16 and married, is learning from Putali the skill of leather work. Most importantly, they have found a new independence and dignity.

James wrote to the churches: "What good is it my brothers, if one of you sees a brother in need to say to him 'God bless you and keep well' but does nothing for his need?" The UMN, committed to bringing Christ by word and deed, is bringing this love of Christ to the poorest of the poor, the vulnerable and the oppressed, and seek to change those structures and attitudes which disadvantage them. You are there through *Presbyterians Sharing...* God bless and guide you as you seek to identify with these people in their needs and aspirations.

In His Love and Service,
Margaret

M. & W. Lessard-Clouston,
Kwansei Gakuin University,
1-1-127 Uegahara,
Nishinomiya, Hyogo 662 Japan
September 1997

We enjoyed a wonderful visit with Michael's parents in March and April, including a trip to the Tokyo area for the annual missionary conference. We appreciated time together here at home, just sharing our life with them and letting Joel receive lots of interest and affection from others. The spring term went by quickly, with Michael's lectures in the Canadian Studies course taking up much time, but also being a wonderful chance to learn and share about our "home and native land".

Our big news for those who haven't heard is that we are expecting our second child in January. Joel is happy he will become a big brother, and we are all looking forward to the baby's arrival. Please pray that the pregnancy will continue to go smoothly. We have thankfully found a doctor who speaks English and who is even familiar with the Canadian system, as he worked in Ottawa for three years.

At church we continue to struggle with relationships and the language, but believe we should attend and support a Japanese congregation. Michael sings with the choir (once a month) and through our English Bible study we are getting to know a small group of people at the church.

One issue we face is the lack of church children's programs. Joel can play supervised during our Sunday service, but unfortunately he is not gaining any real or positive experience of church. Wendy continues to have Sunday School lessons with him, and we are grateful he likes his 'Bible book' and its many stories.

Another concern is our own spiritual health and growth. We try to attend an English worship service once a month or so. Please pray that God would challenge, guide, and encourage us in our pilgrimage through our morning devotions together and in our own quiet times. May God also grant us more of a burden and the ability to pray effectively for those with whom we live and work. While people here seem to trust in many different things, may we truly "trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7).

After a summer break, our English Bible Study finished the lessons on the fruit of the Spirit. During the spring we lost several regular attendees and gained many more new Economics students with fairly good English (including one Christian). So the study has changed from one of mostly Christians to one of mostly non-Christians interested in learning about the Bible.

Please pray that God would protect those who attend and enable all of us to come to know Him better as we learn and study the Bible (most participants for the first time). May the words and deeds of those of us in the group who know Christ lead the seekers to Jesus.

Joel is taking gym and swimming classes in Japanese and attends an English preschool once a week. Thankfully, he now shows interest in Japanese and even surprises us sometimes by talking to others in Japanese when we are out.

As Joel's schedule gets busier, so does Wendy's. I am meeting more mothers in the area, and slowly getting to know some of them better. This is a wonderful opportunity to practise my Japanese.

As people attend our chapel talks, classes, discussion group, etc. please pray that we might be sensitive both to individuals and to God's leading and direction. May our words be "salty" and may our actions reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Michael & Wendy

Catherine Inglis,
Jobat Christian Hospital
Jobat MP 45799k0, India
September 1997

[Catherine Inglis arrived in India in August. She was met in Delhi by two other volunteers from the PCC: Jonathan Sherbino and Kimberley Reid who, she says were excellent in preparing her for the upcoming year.]

My arrival in Indore was met with quite a ceremony, despite my late flight. The students at the M.I.B.E. Graduate School for Nurses met me with a fresh flower garland and bouquet that they had prepared themselves, with flowers from the garden. But even more beautiful than the fresh flowers were the warm and welcoming faces of the students and staff here. They have been so wonderful and have made me feel like a part of the school.

Daily, I eat my meals with the students and they are constantly teaching me, especially with my Hindi. It is quite a long process but everyone is very patient of my struggle to learn a second language. In turn, I have been helping some of the students with their papers in English.

The classes are conducted in both Hindi and English, and for some, neither is their first language. There are 34 students here to receive training after already completing their basic degrees in nursing and midwifery.

The students hail from all over India, and there are even a couple of students from Mauritius (with whom I am practising my French, which is just slightly better than my Hindi!)

In the office, I have been busy with the daily correspondence, filing, keeping track of the mess accounts, issuing receipts, and trying to help with phone calls (provided the person at the other end can speak English!).

In addition to general administrivia, I have had the opportunity to assist the student social committee in preparing specials "feasts", arrange for meetings and even help the kitchen staff get meals ready. In that regard I am supervising some of the building personnel, in absence of the Director, Miss Singh, though I end up learning much more from them: how to prepare chappatis, learning the names of vegetables and weights and measures in Hindi, and grinding spices.

I was honoured to arrive here in time for Independence Day (August 15). The students celebrated in a very simple, yet respectful manner, with a flag-raising ceremony and devotions held outside. Patriotism was flying high: students and staff spoke about what it meant for them to live in an independent country; they filled the air with a patriotic song competition and prayers for their beautiful country; and spoke about their national heroes.

I was asked to lead devotions the next week, and I shared with the students and staff my experience of India and of Canada so soon after both countries celebrated their independence days. It has been staggering for me to be in a country so young in independence, yet so old in every other regard. It has now become commonplace for me to pass a temple that is easily a couple thousand years old. "Old" here takes on a whole new meaning.

- Catherine Inglis

At my next assignment, Jobat Christian Hospital, I will have the honour of joining a long list of esteemed Presbyterian missionaries (including Pauline Brown, the longest serving current missionary with our church). I will be present at the Jubilee celebrations at Jobat in November, celebrating 100 years of mission in the Jhabua District. Though 100 years is a lot to celebrate, we must be humble in our celebrations, remembering that the people and the land were here for thousands of years and will remain long after we've gone home.

Love,
Catherine

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

February
5 - Philip Barsoum, Cyprus
12 - Christopher Barsoum, Cyprus
20 - Nan Budding, Nepal
20 - Hubert Budding, Nepal

March
12 - Ling Schwarz, Nepal
18 - Doreen Morrison, India
19 - Naomi Inglis, Malawi

OUR READERS Write

Just before Christmas I had a run-in with a somewhat officious young member of the RCMP. Although my own feeling about the incident was that he was equally to blame for its happening, he subjected me to a 10-minute tirade. "What the 'bleep' did you think you were doing?" he demanded. I was astounded. Never in my life had I been spoken to in such a manner.

When he demanded my driver's licence and saw that I was somewhat over the three score and ten allotted to us, he almost shouted, "What are you doing on the road at your age? How dare you be driving at your age?" I tried to tell him that I had never had a parking or speeding ticket, nor had I ever had a police citation, nor had I ever made a claim on I.C.B.C., and that I am classified with their highest award–a Road Star, with the highest discount privilege. He refused to listen, just kept on shouting at me.

When he finally let me go, I drove off in a daze, wondering just what had happened to me, and just what could I do about it. I reported the incident to the staff sergeant in charge of the local detachment, but because I had been so traumatized by his treatment of me, I could not give the young constable's name. The staff sergeant apologized on behalf of his junior, and said he would see what he could do.

That was some two months ago and I still have not heard anything more, or received an apology from the young man. This incident has been on my mind ever since. I have prayed that God would help me to forgive the young man, but it was not until last Sunday in church that my final realization about God's forgiveness, and mine, came to me. It was during our repeating of the Lord's Prayer, that when I came to the part that says "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us," I realized I could not expect to be forgiven my sins if I still held the sin of resentment against this young man in my heart.

It is not that I believe that God forgives us one on one–i.e. forgive this sin for that sin–no, God's forgiveness is all-encompassing. It is we, his people, who find it difficult and only with God's help can our forgiveness be as all-encompassing. So now I pray that God will forgive me as I forgive that young man who hurt me so badly.

Kay Berry, BC

Dear June,

I put off responding to the May/June question on violence in our society, with the inevitable result.

The Editorial in the November/December Glad Tidings jarred me once again. Surely we must all ask "What can I do, to change anything?" I too have been almost physically ill at some of the atrocities. I have been soul weary, especially when it is obvious that so much inhumaneness, cruelty and death even, are because of religious justification or self-righteousness. Where is God's love and goodness in any of this? What can I do?

Well, the only way I can live with myself, is to do my best in my own small corner. That is to love my family and neighbour; to support my church and as many honest causes in whatever way I can; to be non-judgmental, only God can judge; to be loving and kind, especially to children, the sick and the elderly; and last, but really first, to pray. Pray to our God for increased faith, understanding and patience.

We know that God is in charge.

Sincerely,

Marjorie G. Wincott, Niagara Falls, ON

Dear June:

I think it is a privilege to belong to the WMS and I think the Glad Tidings is a great magazine. However, there is one thing about our organization that has exasperated me for many years.

I remember when I was young, though nowadays I may not always recall where I left my glasses, or even why I wanted them. I do remember when I was still involved in CGIT and Young People's Society, (going to high school) that two or three very nice women from the evening WMS invited me to start going to their group.

"We need you because you are young," they said.

I went to Toronto instead.

Over and over again through the years I have heard the same thing, "We need younger women."

Last year I attended Council, and it was a wonderful experience. One of the delightful people I met was from my old church. When I asked how the WMS was doing, she admitted it was not too bad, but added, "We need younger women, though. We are all getting old." Sixty years later, same group, same message.

This phrase recurs at our auxiliary meetings. It turns up at Presbyterials. It is mentioned at Synodicals.

Here's what I personally think: Firstly, I don't think anyone is going to come to a meeting if we only say we want them because they are young; secondly, we should invite others to come, learn, and help because our work is valuable, challenging, exciting, of great worth, and fulfills Christ's mandate to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (It can even be fun for goodness sake!) Everyone of every age can share in this.

Thirdly, I think God and us old ladies have been doing a pretty good job for these sixty years and more, and I expect we're good for a few more yet.

Best regards to Miss Kitty and [Dallas], and of course, to you, too.

Sincerely,
Zena E. Mackay, Burnaby, BC

Dear June,
It seems that my and John Wilson's letters in the May/June issue of Glad Tidings provoked a stimulating debate. Thanks for your editorial in the most recent issue and the opportunity for others to express their opinions.

It seems to me that many things become confused in the debate about violence. First, the perception of increasing violence. I myself agreed to this in my original letter. However, I think there is a hysteria around that violence, especially on the street, has reached never before heard of levels. I do not believe that this is the case. Some forms of violent crime are on the increase but in the statistics that I remember, rates of homicide have remained more or less constant in Canada for many decades.

As well, it seems that the most violent place in our society remains the home. Domestic violence, usually perpetrated by men against women and children, although not exclusively, continues to be the most common form of violence. In fact, the reported incidents of domestic violence are on the increase but I suspect that this has more to do with tougher laws which do provide some recourse on the part of victims than existed in the past.

Although it is true that guns are not evil, only the people who use them, guns are used by family members in crimes of passion within homes. Although most Canadian gun owners are law abiding citizens who will never use their guns for any malicious or criminal purpose, it cannot be denied that guns are used by people who are usually law abiding, in criminal acts.

A tougher gun control law and registration system will not stop all violent crime, but it will be useful in preventing and investigating some crimes. It is interesting to note that police support this legislation.

These concerns, however, are different from the initial one about the appropriateness of condoning "guns for hire", Christian or otherwise, in your magazine. What truly alarms me in Canada at the present time is the increase in private security organizations and the perceived need for more elaborate security systems to protect private property as if this was a real solution rather than simply contributing to the spiral of violence.

Much of the violence which people fear is a symptom of the increasing polarization in our society between the haves and the have nots. It is no accident that certain forms of violence are on the increase at the same time that poverty and unemployment continue to plague us as a society.

When the salaries of CEO's are hundreds of times those of their employees (not to mention those who must depend on decreasing levels of social assistance) is it surprising that a culture of violence is developing?

In countries like South Africa, Brazil and Mozambique where I have spent time, where the contrast between wealth and poverty is so evident, it is not surprising that those who do not have enough to eat, or an opportunity for education, or a place to live, try to scale the walls which protect the rich. Although the contrast may not be quite so evident in Canada, we are not that different.

Rather than talking about hired guns and security systems, what are Christians and other people of faith in this country doing to move us toward a society which shows concern for the vulnerable and which actively works to reduce the gap between rich and poor?

What are we as Christians doing to move ourselves as individuals, families, communities and as a society toward the vision of justice and peace which Jesus proclaimed when he talked about the Reign of God? This is what will go to the root of violence in our society; it is a complex issue and there is no easy solution but at least let's move in the right direction rather than contributing to the problem.

All the best,
Bob Faris

INTERNET COURSE
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NEWS

LUTHERANS MAKE HISTORY

Hong Kong, China, 8 July (ENI)–The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), opened its ninth assembly in Hong Kong on 8 July, having overcome obstacles on the way to becoming the first international body to meet in the region since Hong Kong's return to communist China.

In the Convention Centre on Hong Kong island–where, at midnight on 30 June, President Jiang Zemin, of China, and Prince Charles, of Great Britain, oversaw the ceremonies for the territory's restoration to Chinese sovereignty–the general secretary of the LWF, Dr. Ishmael Noko, told journalists that problems had been solved.

Last year the Chinese authorities had asked the LWF to "delay" the assembly, but the original dates (8 to 16 July) were finally confirmed.

(The issue of visas for Taiwanese delegates is especially sensitive as China refuses to recognize the government of Taiwan, which the Chinese government believes should also come under the sovereignty of Beijing.)

Dr. Lam Tak Ho, president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and one of the local organizers of the assembly, told the press conference that he believed Hong Kong's five Lutheran churches (with a total membership of just over 40,000) were the smallest to ever host an LWF assembly.

About 900 delegates and observers were at the Convention Centre, including 395 delegates from 68 countries, staff from the LWF and from Hong Kong's Lutheran churches, visitors, observers and journalists and photographers.– Edmund Doogue

LEADER REASSURES CHRISTIANS

Hong Kong, 9 July (ENI)–Hong Kong's chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, has assured a major church gathering that Hong Kong's religious freedoms–both of individuals and organizations – will not be tampered with following the return of the territory to communist China.

On 9 July, one of his first public engagements since he took over as the administrator of Hong Kong on 1 July, Tung Chee-hwa welcomed the Lutheran World Federation to Hong Kong. In a speech clearly intended to reassure local churches and the Christian community worldwide, he said that the LWF's choice of assembly site "demonstrated eloquently your confidence in the future of Hong Kong".

Tung, a multi-millionaire Hong Kong businessman chosen by Beijing to run the territory now that it has been reunited with the People's Republic, received standing ovations from delegates and visitors.

Tung went out of his way to specify that churches will not suffer because of the change of sovereignty.

"One of the freedoms that my government will preserve is, of course, freedom of religion," Tung Chee-hwa said.

Such a clear confirmation is likely to allay fears among Hong Kong's mainstream churches that they would be subject to the state regulations governing religious practice in the rest of the People's Republic of China.

However those local Christians sceptical of the Beijing government's guarantees for Hong Kong believe that any changes to the present situation will be made gradually, and in the long term rather than immediately. About eight per cent of Hong Kong's population of 6.4 million is Christian.

The region also has about 50,000 Muslims. Most Hong Kong residents are followers of Buddhism, Taoism or Confucianism, or of mixtures of the three faiths. – Edmund Doogue

INDIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Debrecen, Hungary, 15 August (ENI)–Fifty years after Indian independence, the Christian impact on India has been "out of all proportion to the number of Christians in the country", according to George Koshy, general secretary of the Church of South India.

"Through a lot of our institutions, we have influenced a lot of Hindus and others who have come up as leaders in the country. Many of our leaders were educated in Christian schools and colleges," Koshy said, pointing out that the current speaker of the Indian parliament, P.A. Sangma, is a Christian. According to a 1991 census, only 2.3 per cent of India's population of 936 million is Christian, compared with 82 per cent Hindu and 12.1 percent Muslim.

"Our voice is respected," Koshy told ENI in Debrecen, Hungary, where he was attending the general council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

The Church of South India was founded on 27 September 1947–just over a month after independence–as the world's first united church to include Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational traditions.

Koshy is proud of the achievements of his country and his church over the past 50 years. Although poverty was still the major challenge facing India, the country's economy had made great strides, Koshy said. "The Indian economy is a miracle. We may not have social justice to the extent we would wish to have, but still our economy supports 950 million people without importing food."

The Church of South India has 3 million members and 11,000 congregations in 21 dioceses. The CSI runs 2000 colleges, 130 schools and 104 hospitals. In the 1960s the church became conscious of its social responsibility and started organizing rural development projects. There are 50 such projects all over India, 50 training centres for young people, and 500 residential hostels for a total of 35,000 children. – Stephen Brown

BRITISH CHURCH VOTES ON SEXUALITY

Portsmouth, 9 July (ENI)–The general assembly of the United Reformed

Church in the United Kingdom (URC) has agreed to accept practising homosexuals as ministers where local churches wish it.

It is understood to be the first time that a mainstream British denomination has taken such a decision.

After the key vote at the assembly on 8 July, URC deputy general secretary, John Waller, acknowledged that members might leave the church over the decision.

He said that the assembly's vote "was not a sea change" and the key decision was in a separate motion to defer a final decision on the issue pending further study.

The same resolution that accepted the possibility of openly gay ministers also provided for local churches to refuse to call a homosexual minister. However, opponents argued strongly that by putting the authority of general assembly behind the acceptance of gay ministers in some circumstances, the church had already made its decision.

The resolution also provided that candidates for the URC ministry cannot be rejected for training purely on the grounds of being in a homosexual relationship.

The 102,000-member URC is the biggest representative in England (it also has local churches in Wales and Scotland) of the Reformed tradition of Protestant Christianity. – Cedric Pulford

ANGLICAN ENQUIRY ON SEXUALITY

London, 15 July (ENI)–The Church of England has taken a step towards acceptance of gay clergy after its general synod voted that the church's present policy on homosexuality was "not the last word on the subject".

The church's current policy is expressed in a bishops' statement of 1991 that homosexual relationships are acceptable for laity but not for clergy. The ruling general synod, meeting in York (14 July), voted strongly in favour of requesting further discussion on the issue of human sexuality by clergy and congregations across the country.

During the debate, the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey–who spoke out against "sexual activity outside marriage"–put the issue of homosexuality centre stage in the worldwide Anglican Communion. He announced that next year's Lambeth conference would be asked to set up an international commission of inquiry into human sexuality.– Cedric Pulford

SEXUAL ORIENTATION NO BAR TO ORDINATION

Perth, 14 July (ENI)–The national assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia has agreed that a person's sexual orientation is in itself no bar to ordination and that presbyteries (regional councils) can provide some recognition to same-sex relationships.

The assembly, which took place in Perth, from 5 to 12 July, did so by agreeing to "note"–and not to reject–the decisions on sexual orientation made by the church's national executive committee over the last 15 years.

According to a Uniting Church media release, the current policy of the church is that "the sexual orientation of an applicant or candidate (for ministry) is not and has not been in itself a bar to ordination". The policy also states that the suitability of a candidate may depend, however, on the "manner in which the applicant or candidate's sexuality is expressed".

The issue of homosexuality is a controversial issue within the Uniting Church, which was formed in 1977.

NIGERIA'S CITIZENS HAVE NO FUEL

Jos, Nigeria, 11 September (ENI)–As a continuing fuel crisis in Nigeria brings the overall economy close to a standstill, church leaders have publicly condemned the country's military government, calling on it to step down.

Even though Nigeria is the world's sixth biggest producer of crude oil, it has over recent years suffered severe fuel shortages, mainly because of the poor state of the local refineries and because of inadequate distribution systems. The problems have been widely blamed on the high levels of corruption and mismanagement in the Nigerian government and in the domestic oil industry.

According to Victor Musa, president of the Evangelical Churches of West Africa, the crisis is in various ways responsible for the deaths of many Nigerians. Ambulances were no longer running, he said.

"People no longer even go to worship places because of this," he added.

Musa told ENI this week that Nigeria's military government had proved it was incapable of steering the country through the fuel crisis which had adversely affected all sectors of the national economy. He described the fuel crisis as the worst ever in this west African nation.

Crude oil constitutes 95 per cent of Nigeria's exports. In 1991, during the Gulf War alone, Nigeria raised revenue of more than US$5 billion in sales of crude oil. However, according to local reports, US$3 billion raised in that period could not be accounted for in Central Bank records.-Obed Minchakpu

*****Study Theme*****

OVERCOMING VIOLENCE

Geneva, 1 September (ENI) –The "Peace to the City" global campaign launched on 31 August by the World Council of Churches is intended to enable local groups anywhere in the world to find practical ways to end violence in their communities, according to the WCC staff member coordinating the program.

The campaign will focus on seven cities around the world: Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Belfast (Northern Ireland), Boston (US), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Durban (South Africa), Kingston (Jamaica) and Suva (Fiji).

Salpy Eskidjian, the WCC staff member coordinating the campaign as part of the WCC's Programme to Overcome Violence, has already visited five of the cities to link up with local peace initiatives.

Asked how the seven cities were chosen, she said: "We didn't choose seven cities and then say, 'You get a medal for violence.' Instead we looked for cities where, in the midst of violence, there are initiatives to do something about it. We chose as partners for the campaign local groups that are building bridges between communities that are divided by violence."

Eskidjian stressed that the campaign was a practical initiative by the World Council of Churches to help people everywhere put an end to violence in their own community. "The seven cities are symbolic–they represent the globe, but anyone making efforts to overcome violence can participate."

Asked by ENI what was understood by violence, Eskidjian said that the cities illustrated different types of violence. While in Belfast and Colombo, political ethnic or sectarian conflict clearly needed to be resolved, in Boston and Rio de Janeiro urban and street violence was affecting the daily life of residents. Each city in the campaign provided cases with "creative methodologies and approaches" to overcome violence.

A clergyman involved in a peace initiative in Boston had told her: "We have to put our feet where our theology is. We have to get out there".

Over the course of the next year, the WCC will compile a report and a video about the initiatives sponsored by the Peace to the City Campaign–in time for the WCC's eighth assembly, in Harare in December 1998.

- For information about the Peace to the City Campaign and the Programme to Overcome Violence, consult the POV web site: http://www.wcc-coe.org/pov –Edmund Doogue

IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

The Annual Meeting of the Synodical of **Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario** meeting was the first weekend in April at St. John's Church, Winnipeg. This meeting ended with the onset of the snowstorm of the century!

The opening dinner, April 4, was followed by a worship service led by Rev. Ken Innes, minister of St. John's, and celebration of holy communion. The speaker for the evening was the Rev. Wu Weixing, a minister of the Christian Church in China, who, on April 28, became the first student of the Canada China Program to graduate with a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Winnipeg.

The following day the reports were dealt with, and Rev. Dr. Ray Hodgson, Synod staff person, introduced the mission study on China and Hong Kong.

During lunch, presentations were made to retiring President Gloria Kennedy, to mark her coming marriage. In the afternoon, Dr. Hodgson, using an overhead projector, presented an overview of ideas on Synodical restructuring. A motion was passed to have a three-year trial period of an Executive as follows: Synodical President, three Presbyterial Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Synodical staff person, with power to add conveners as necessary. Terms of office are to be three years. Duties of the Executive members were noted in detail.

Dr. Hodgson installed the officers, with Brenda Patterson of Superior Presbyterial as President. Following many comments relating to weather, no date was set for the 1998 Synodical Annual Meeting! The decision was left to the Executive.

On June 29, 1997, the new facility "Feathers" at Camp Kintail, was dedicated. In her comments Director Gwen Brown said, "had it not been for the vision of the **Hamilton-London** Synodical, particularly the women involved each year with Ladies Camp we might not have this wonderful building".

The ribbon was cut by Dorothy Neal of Sarnia who had nursed at Kintail for many years. She also directed many of the Ladies Camps.

PRESBYTERIAL

Sarnia Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at St. Andrew's, Strathroy, Ontario on October 14 beginning with a potluck supper with the welcome and blessing by the host church minister, Rev. Kristine O'Brien.

While the women were still at the tables, literature secretary Marilyn Shaw reviewed the new books she had on display.

President Margaret McNeil chaired the evening program. The speaker was Anna McCoskery who in August was a delegate to the 23rd World Alliance of Reformed Churches held in Debrecen, Hungary. The theme there was 'Breaking the Chains of Injustice' based on Isaiah 59:1-9. (See Anna's article elsewhere in this issue.)

Blending with the speaker's message the closing worship, presented by members of the Helen Scott Group of West Adelaide, centred on persecution of Christians around the world.

The summer of '97 featured two special events enjoyed by **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial. The spring rally was a bus trip to Toronto attended by 61 members. They visited WMS offices at 50 Wynford Drive. This was very informative, and an opportunity to meet the staff face to face. Lunch was served for the group during their visit to Knox College. In the afternoon a tour was conducted through Evangel Hall and members heard first hand of the mission being accomplished there.

Later in the summer, the fall conference was held in Shakespeare Church on the theme *You can make a difference*. The afternoon session opened with prayer by Pat White. Welcomes were given on behalf of the session and congregation by Rev.

Rob Congram, and by Margery Irvine, Shakespeare WMS. A sing-along was accompanied by Eunice Bisset. Afternoon devotions were given by Stratford Presbyterian Women.

President Jean Edmonds reported on the recent council meeting. Reports from Synodical were given by Jean Carey, Robina Alexander and Janet Gibson. Jean Edmonds conducted the business.

In response to needs at Evangel Hall contributions were received and a large quantity of food, clothing and money was collected to send there. A Book Table was on display and Sally Scott gave an informative book review. She was assisted by Ruth Ward. Book sales exceeded $400.00.

Following a nutrition break, Erin Crisfield, area educational consultant, conducted a workshop on the theme. Every little amount helps and all put together can make a great difference. Following grace a delicious supper was served by Shakespeare and North Easthope Knox ladies.

Diane Petrie introduced guest speaker, June Stevenson, editor of the Glad Tidings magazine. She spoke of her life and work in teaching and dealing with people in many areas, some in drastic situations. Using her talents, she has travelled, interviewed and counselled. She also is a writer of audiovisual material and greeting card verse. Her advice as we face the trials of life was to "Stand up, Speak out and Be Counted", for we can make a difference. Shirley Aicheson expressed appreciation to the guest speaker.

The Fall Rally of **Peterborough** Presbyterial was held September 20, 1997 at Elim Lodge on Pigeon Lake, the theme *Sharing Our Gifts*. Registration and coffee was followed by a sing-along led by Rev. Ruth Draffin of Colbourne. Rev. Draffin gave the worship reading, followed by prayer. President Ada Chapman welcomed everyone.

Joan Smith of Port Hope was in charge of the workshop "New Ways to Share Our Gifts". Session One was a discussion of the theme and ways to encourage sharing. For the second part we were divided into groups which gave us other interesting ways of sharing.

Nancy Millar of Norwood led us in a short fun-filled fitness program. At noon a delicious lunch was served in the dining hall.

The afternoon session began with another sing-along led by Ruth Draffin with Holly Hall of Centreville at the piano. For the next hour we were free to review the many displays of hand crafted articles, the book table, and a book review of the Mission Study, as well as time to enjoy a walk by the lake.

The worship service was conducted by the Bowmanville group and the offering was received and dedicated. Closing thoughts were given by President Ada Chapman.

Quebec Presbyterial Fall Rally was held September 23, 1997 at St. Andrew's Church in Sherbrooke. The theme was Harvest Crunch. (Then Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37.)

Thera Devries, president of Quebec Presbyterial constituted the meeting with prayer. She and Joyce McLead, Sherbrooke, welcomed all.

Roxianne Walker gave a devotion that focused on "Prayer for the Harvest".

Ann Blane gave an update on Council. A sing-along with Lottie Sutherland, Synodical President, got everyone up on their feet. We sang her song, "Solving the Harvest Crunch".

After a delicious lunch prepared by the Sherbrooke group, Lottie Sutherland gave us an encouraging talk about WMS, based on Matthew 28 where Jesus told the women to go and tell the good news.

Ann Blane spoke of her work this past summer with the L.I.T. programme at Gracefield.

Closing devotions on "Why do we pray?" were given by Nadine Fafard.

The Fall Rally of **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial was held October 7, 1997 at St. Andrew's Church, Kitchener.

President Dorothy McCombie opened the rally with prayer, followed by a hymn. Greetings and welcome from the Session were brought by Rev. Bill Lamont of St. Andrew's. The WMS purpose was repeated. Dorothy Cressman led in devotions, reading portions of Scripture from Revelation and Isaiah, related to the theme Hope for the future and the Millennium. Meditation and prayer were given by Emily Finney.

Lenora Arbuckle introduced guest speaker, Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary of the WMS. Charlotte's theme was "Going Into the Next Century." She encouraged all to work together to keep on with the work of the WMS which has been an anchor for the mission of the Church. Each person is a link in a chain, which is strong, but flexible to move on to the unknown and always secure in the knowledge that God is with us.

Courtesies were given by Jean Godin.

The Fall Rally of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held on October 4, 1997 at St. Andrew's Church, Huntingdon, Quebec.

Host minister Rev. Kate Jordan welcomed members and conducted the opening worship. A brief presentation of the history of the church was given.

President Mary-Lou Johnston constituted the meeting. Reports were given and Ann Blane, Regional staff member, spoke of her work.

Mary-Lou introduced speakers, Rev. Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary of the WMS and Rev. Margaret Greig, Program Secretary, WMS. Their theme was "Bread for the Journey" and they spoke of the various aspects of their work with members taking part.

An "in memoriam" for Ruth Low was given by Margaret Barter. After lunch a sing-along was led by Joycelyn Mackay with Lois Klempa at the piano.

Worship with hymns and readings followed by communion was given by Rev. Charlotte Brown and Rev. Margaret Greig.

Courtesies were given by Anita Mack.

When the Fall Rally of **Westminster** Presbyterial was held in Haney, BC on September 24, 1997, a unique method of presenting reports from the Valley Groups was conducted by Joyce Ungaro.

Taking the role of a teacher, wearing a grey wool wig, Joyce interviewed three of her "students", namely "Miss Abby" from Abbotsford, "Miss Missy" from Mission and "Miss Chilly" from Chilliwack. The roles of the three students were taken by Irene Jenkins, Myrtle McDonald and Lois Lochead, each wearing a woolly wig made of hanks of wool.

Each of the "students" told of activities undertaken by her group which ranged from helping seniors, juniors, and participating in community activities, thus furthering the outreach of her group.

The Mission Study, "Loaves and Fishes" was introduced by Betty McLagan.

The devotional was taken by Rev. Robert Garvin who used the "glorious weather we are enjoying" to develop the theme of the glory of God as exemplified in the worship of God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Margaret Vanderzweerde, guest speaker, showed slides and spoke enthusiastically of her work in northern India. She also had crafts to display.

The Rally was well attended by representatives from the various groups in the Presbyterial.

West Toronto Presbyterial was held September 24, 1997 at Bonar-Parkdale Church in Toronto. The theme was *First we must listen*, using scripture from Matthew 13:1-9.

After opening worship there was a brief business meeting during which Lorna Henderson, treasurer, informed us we have thus far met 51% of our allocation. Devotions were led by Dorothy Hopper.

Guest speaker for the evening was Rev. Henry Hildebrand from Kenora.

The evening ended with refreshments,

hosted by the women's group of Bonar-Parkdale Church.

St. Andrew's Church, Picton, welcomed **Kingston** Presbyterial to their Fall Rally on September 20, 1997 using as their theme, *Doers of the Word*, taken from James 1:21, 23.

The meeting opened with worship led by the host church, using scripture from James 2:14-18 which speaks of faith without deeds.

The business meeting was led by president Lyla Page. Jean Pearson reported on Synodical. Diana Wadsworth, visiting for the day, brought greetings and told of her missionary work while teaching in India. (Diana also spoke at the Mission Sunday Service at St. Andrew's.)

Three interest groups were formed on the theme, and worked on their projects for the rest of the morning. The group led by Bev. Adams wrote letters to be sent to missionaries. The Bible Study group led by Doreen Dath read from James 1:19-27 about Christian Faith. The knitters, led by Heather Fear, spent a happy time knitting pneumonia vests for hospitals in Central Africa. Many vests were ready to be sent that day.

An impressive book table was organized by Audrie Cossar. There was also a display of CGIT materials organized by Doreen Dath.

The afternoon began with a rousing sing-along led by Dierdre Bunnett, accompanied on the piano by Gwen Brain. An Honorary Life Membership was presented to Wanda Johnston, by Grace Dykstra, for her years of dedicated service as treasurer.

Guest speaker Rev. Charlotte Brown, informed us of the work, staffing and resources of the WMS. This was most inspiring.

The closing worship was given by the women of St. Andrew's, Kingston. Courtesies were expressed by Past President, Barbara Best.

Canadian Girls In Tr

Left to right: Joyce Donnan, Diana Wadsworth, Lyla Page, Charlotte Brown and Doreen Dath.

Living as Christians in a Violent Society was the theme for the Fall Rally of the **Maitland** Presbyterial held in the Teeswater Church, September 22, 1997.

Karen Lowe from Women's House of Bruce County was the guest speaker, talking about wife abuse. Wife assault happens to many women, at all income and education levels, in all social classes, in all religious and ethnic groups. We can help by supporting these women and giving them information about opportunities available. Pamphlets can be placed in doctor's and lawyer's offices. As well, volunteers are always needed at the home in Kincardine.

The women, representing sixteen WMS groups, met for a soup, sandwich and dessert supper, followed by a sing-along. First Vice-President, Shirley McCall convened the meeting and opened with welcome, a reading and prayer.

President Erlma Haldenby conducted the business and called for reports.

The devotions on love that is a language everyone understands, were given by Norma Raynard and Donalda Moffat of Lucknow.

The Teeswater Choir sang a lively musical number.

Area staff person Erin Crisfield gave a brief introduction of this year's mission studies.

Laura MacDonald closed the meeting with prayer.

Pickering Presbyterial's Fall Rally was hosted by St. Andrew's Church, Ajax, September 24, 1997. A lively hymn-sing was led by Barbara Draffin and Eileen Carr, choosing old favorites from the Book of Praise, and newer selections which we all enjoyed. Words of welcome were extended by Jean Dancey, co-ordinator of Pickering Presbyterial. Jean also gave a memorial service for Agnes Davidson, a very faithful WMS member, who died in early September.

Catherine Bray and three women from Port Perry led in devotions, challenging us to be good neighbours.

Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary of the WMS, was guest speaker for the evening. She put us to work answering questions. Charlotte gave us a lot of information in a very interesting way. She suggested we venture into the future secure that God goes with us, and she referred us to that favorite old hymn, "We have an anchor that keeps the soul...grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love."

The women and men of St. Andrew's, Pickering provided refreshments, and a book table was available for browsing.

East Toronto Presbyterial has held a study workshop in the Fall for many years. As a Presbyterial we find this workshop to be helpful to the local groups as it gives them ideas on how to use the study material.

This year the workshop was held September 23, 1997 at Willowdale Church, North York, Ontario. Area Staff, Lynda Reid led the workshop. The video: "Christian Faith in a Violent World" was provocative and frightening, but one that each church should use.

The study "Loaves and Fishes" was presented through music, videos and worship. We look forward to using this study and are excited by the fact that it was produced by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

As a welcome gift to their new minister, Rev. Lynn Nichol, of Monkton, Knox Church members, friends of the WMS made and presented her with a quilt. Front: left - Edna Crawford, Terry Ward, Margaret Brown, Mary Brown, Helen Henry. Back: Marion Smith, Elizabeth Stewart, Eldeen Ward, Doris Ward, Ruth Ward and Nancy Diehl.

The Annual **Bruce-Grey** WMS Fall Rally took place at Durham Church, September 11, 1997. The theme for this day of fellowship, worship, and learning was *Casting the Net.*

The day opened with special gathering music by David Nicholson and his wife, Marie, playing the piano and violin. The 73 women were warmly welcomed by Vera Firth and the Rev. David Nicholson from Durham.

Guest speakers were Erin Crisfield, Area Staff, and Rev. Howard Sullivan, Meaford Church. Erin introduced the study "Loaves and Fishes". Allowing the women to experience part of a session, she made them eager to start their own study.

Rev. Sullivan spoke eloquently on how Scripture can be alive in our daily lives. He expressed the importance of prayer and quiet time spent with God. The focus of his message was based on James 1:19: "My dear brothers, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

There were opportunities to meet with friends, old and new. A book display was available featuring books, tapes, and videos.

During the day song was led by Alva Irving from Paisley and Kay Remus from Walkerton. They were accompanied by Vera Firth on the piano.

Closing worship service was led by Isobel Bell and Christine Welsh from Port Elgin.

LOCAL

The Dr. Margaret O'Hara WMS of Renfrew Church was happy to celebrate two members' 100th birthdays.

In April Christena Cochrane, an active member, was entertained at a luncheon hosted jointly by the Ladies Aid and WMS.

On August 31st Jean McLaren, for many years a most generous associate member, celebrated her 100th birthday at Quail Creek Retirement Centre where she resides with her sister, merely two years younger. A Certificate of Merit from the WMS Group was presented by President Joan Hilliard. Miss McLaren was honoured with several plaques and certificates.

Miss **Agnes Davidson** died in hospital on September 3, 1997 after a brief illness. Agnes was a charter member and an Honorary Life member of the Semper Fidelis WMS of **Knox Presbyterian Church, Agincourt, Ontario** where she held a variety of offices over a period of 68 years. She had a great love for the Women's Missionary Society and its purpose. She served for several years on the executive of the East Toronto Presbyterial.

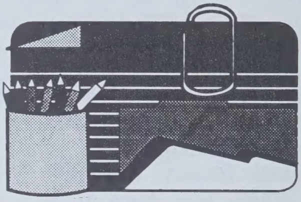
Agnes was a dedicated supporter of children's work–the Sunday School, Children of the Church, Explorers and CGIT, and in her youth was a leader and director of Glen Mhor Camp. She was also involved with other CGIT camps in the province.

A life-long resident of Scarborough, Agnes taught in Scarborough elementary schools for 46 years. After she retired she volunteered as teacher of English as a second language to immigrant students.

She will be remembered by many individuals for her personal acts of kindness. As a faithful member and elder of Knox Church, Agincourt she is sadly missed.

Funeral services were conducted at Knox on September 6 by Revs. Glen and Joyce Davis. (Written by Marjorie Shorting)

An Honorary Life Membership was presented to Mrs. Helen Braes at the Mission Weekend Service on September 28, 1997 at **Knox's Galt, Cambridge**. Helen and husband Peter have moved and will be attending St. Andrew's Church in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Anne-Marie Klassen and Wilma Welsh from Church Offices were guest speakers during a very enjoyable and well attended mission event.



CIRCULATION NEWS

Thanks to the Glad Tidings Secretaries and contact people for returning the renewal lists and new subscribers in good time. As of November 18 there are 64 lists outstanding. The subscriptions were due October 31 so hopefully they will all be in soon as it is costly to send reminders.

Please check the label on your magazine to make sure your address is correct especially the postal code and your apartment or box number. If there is a change, notify us immediately and enclose a copy of the label from the magazine with the change.

If during the year you know of someone who wishes to subscribe, just send in the name and address and we will add their name(s) to the list. Also, those who have trouble reading the regular size issue can subscribe to the Large Print and Cassette Tapes, which are kept on a separate list.

There are different ways of promoting the Glad Tidings within your congregation. Perhaps you might want to give a gift subscription to your minister, a new member of the congregation or someone who cannot afford the cost. Or display sample copies in your church library or narthex. Are there any youth or children's groups in your congregation, perhaps give the leaders a gift subscription.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

Presbyterian World Service & Development

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Isaiah 58:6 (NRSV)

The majority who labour in the sugar plantations in the Dominican Republic are Haitian. They work long hours, cutting and processing sugar cane under difficult conditions, for very little money. The government considers them illegal, and they are often denied access to schools, health care and housing. However, by working together, the labourers are changing things. Many have joined ***PWS&D's*** partner Equal Wings. With Equal Wings they are acquiring the proper documents for living in the Dominican Republic, advocating for government funded schooling, starting small businesses and learning about preventative health care.

PWS&D's community development projects in Africa, India and Central America are helping people secure brighter futures for themselves and their children. PWS&D depends on your donations as it receives no funds from *Presbyterians Sharing. . .* With matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency of 3:1 for development programs and 4:1 for emergency relief, your donation goes a long way.

To make a donation or for more information contact:
PWS&D 50 Wynford Drive. North York, Ontario. M3C 1J7
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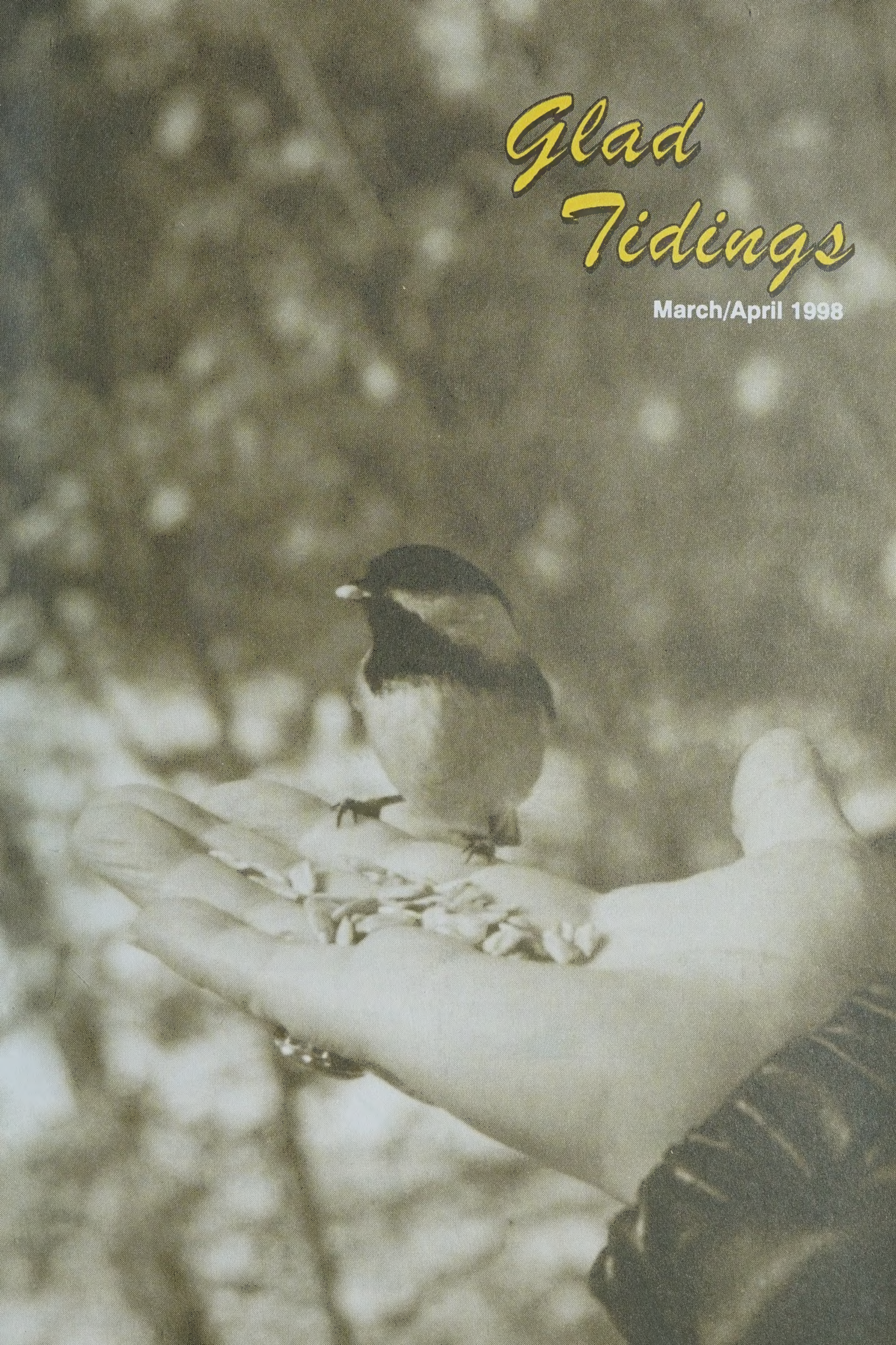

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Glad Tidings

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L. JUNE STEVENSON
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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Cover photo and photos on page 3 by Terry Nicholls.

Inside: Visits to China, India and Nestle Update.

Chickadee Palm Print

Feather light,
Suspended flight;
Dainty feet,
Trust complete.

If for a bit of seed
A tiny heart is freed
To settle on a kindly hand,
Not knowing if it's safe to land,

Then trust,
Like dust,
Lies finely
On an open palm.

For bird and I are lifted
On a level plane
And brought to grace,
The promised land;

Now ever more my hand will be
A resting place for chickadees.
In veins outlined, the merest hint
Of just a tiny footprint.

L. June Stevenson

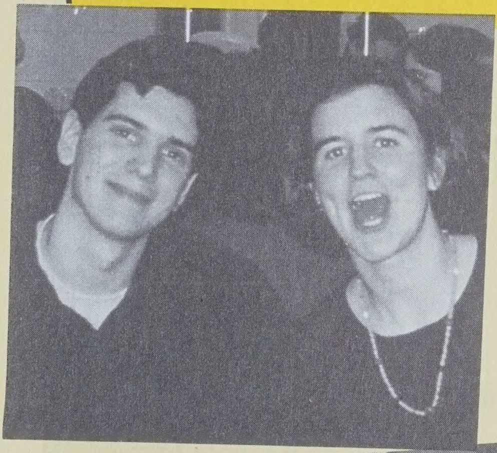
In that day the wolf and the lamb will lie down together, and the leopard and the goats will be at peace. (Isaiah 11:6)

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH SUMMIT

May 29 - June 1, 1997
Ottawa, Ontario

Co-creators and organizers: Mary Ingram and Matthew Brough

Adapted from a presentation by Mary Ingram to the WMS Council Executive meeting, November 10, 1997.



As we aim to create more effective communication within our church, we are excited as active youth leaders, to be conveying these ideas to the Presbyterian Church in Canada through forums such as this, Synod meetings across the country, the internet and most importantly through face to face personal communication.

The purpose of the National Presbyterian Youth Summit was to strengthen Christ's Church through a meeting of youth representatives and Synod Youth Workers from all synods of the Presbyterian Church in Canada who are active in Synod Youth Programs. We wanted it to be a youth initiative from beginning to end, which it remained. We wanted it above all to be blessed, to be glorifying to our God in Heaven, which we also believe it was.

When I say "we", I refer to myself, Matthew Brough and the 40 representatives that gathered in Ottawa for four days last May 29-June 1. These 40 representatives were made up of active youth leaders in the eight synods of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Synod Regional Staff–including educational consultants and youth consultants, several youth synod appointed adult advisors, Colleen Smith, Youth in Mission coordinator, Dorothy Henderson, Life and Mission Agency, Ken McCrae, Chair of the Covenant Community on Children and Youth, and Tam Corbett, Moderator of the 122nd General Assembly. It was excellent to have participation at the Summit from the Regional level to the National level.

Travel had been arranged by the organizers and funding provided by several different arms of the church. Funders for this first time project included the Women's Missionary Society, the CCCY, the Congregational Life Committee for the Synod of Toronto and Kingston and an anonymous donor who wanted the vision of the Summit to become a reality for the youth of this country. This donor donated $5000 to the Summit.

We came together, not to create a national youth group, but to develop each program through the exchange of ideas, to encourage each program and to recognize and learn from our commonalities and our differences.

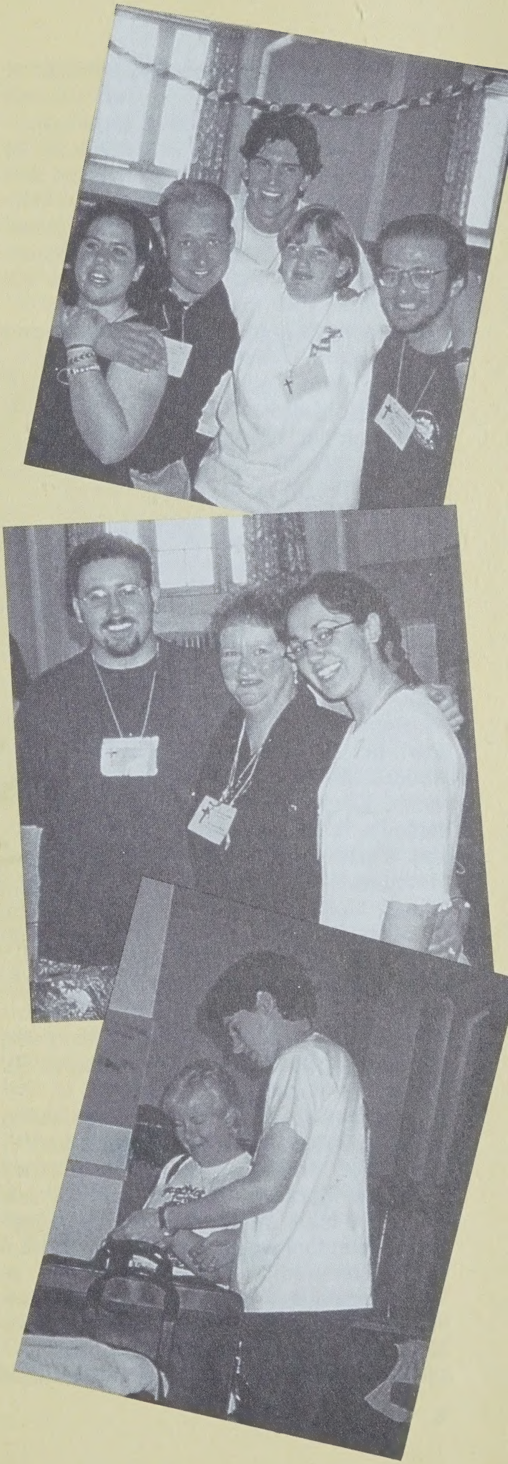
Though Synod youth programs across this country are basically the same in that they provide a fellowship of Presbyterian youth, the obstacles are all different, though often shared. Money, geography, communication with congregations and outreach to our brothers and sisters in the Korean, Chinese, Hungarian, Portuguese and other multicultural groups within our church are obstacles which we all face.

However, in British Columbia where geography is a major obstacle, there is still a sense of community. In Manitoba where thère is a new youth organization at the Winnipeg Presbytery level that is now reaching the Synod level, there is still a sense of community. In the Atlantic provinces and in Alberta where the development of synod youth organizations are once again in their infancy, there is a sense of hope and commitment to whatever is to be.

By connecting and sharing, we helped one another be re-energized. We gave ideas and challenged traditions. We are weak, and often overwhelmed in these completely volunteer roles by the sheer size of the synod in which we operate and the numbers of youth that need to be reached. Our Synod youth organizations are not the be all and end all. Yet, awareness of these communities of faith are what we aim to achieve, not necessarily to have all youth participate but to have all youth aware of their larger church.

The focus of the Summit was not upon what we are doing or "what the church can do for youth". Rather, it was to generate discussion and activity on how we can be better serving our church. As youth become the leaders in our church, we must be educated on our church's structures, and on issues that we must be addressing as members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Communication was at the centre of much of our discussion as we realized the



barriers that poor communication created at local congregational, synod and National levels. We must be effective communicators if we desire to be a community of active people. To that end we have and will be developing partnerships between ourselves as youth leaders, between Regional Staff, National Staff, Youth in Mission, Congregational Life Committees and the WMS.

Our first goal was to create and strengthen a network of active Presbyterian Youth from coast to coast to work together from different locations for the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The practical outcomes and answers to this goal took many forms. We will be utilizing our Synod Regional Staff as we endeavour to reach every church in each of our Synods. There must be an increase in leadership of and to youth. Contacts must be made in each congregation. This maybe an easier mountain to climb in British Columbia with 63 churches in the Synod but here, just within Toronto and Kingston, we have 300 churches to deal with. For Synod Youth Consultant for Toronto and Kingston, Jackie Keatings, this area of her ministry is a priority.

We are weak, and often overwhelmed in these completely volunteer roles by the sheer size of the synod in which we operate and the numbers of youth that need to be reached.

Another major form of communication across the country is the internet and e-mail. The entire Summit was planned between Matthew Brough and myself through e-mail. We used an existing communication tool which is fast and can effectively communicate ideas, to create an active youth network. We discussed how we can all work together to create a national youth internet communication.

The outcome was a new National Presbyterian Youth Web site that is just up and running, leading to each synod organization. The National Web Site has links to each synod web page, though they are not all participating. Instead of overlapping what each synod provides on their websites, each synod will be focusing upon different specialities.

For example, the Toronto-Kingston Synod is a resource centre for ideas for games at youth retreats, Christian drama ministry, songs and devotionals. In Manitoba, there is a discussion page where youth can participate in discussion on any issue that they find relevant, or to advertise events. In British Columbia, there are many pictures that have been scanned in from the Summit, General Assembly, and their own BC convention. There are different forms and ideas for websites, at each one.

This entire project will develop further as more and more synods find youth willing to take on these responsibilities. At the National Site, there will be updates about Triennium, and other larger events such as the possible Canada 2000–all aiming to provide a base for youth ministry and networking from a Canadian Presbyterian perspective.

We need to be working in and with our church so we discussed how we can be using the already existing resources available to us. In the summer, we used the PC Pak to mail out follow-up material, ICE

PEST, to all churches across the country.

We also used the Presbyterian Record and the PCCWeb, now the PCCNet, before and after the Summit. We endeavoured to build communication lines, so we knew that we must be examples of how best to do that. Glad Tidings and the Presbyterian Record will be contacted about the possibility of having youth sections or supplements in their publications to facilitate publicity for the various youth activities across the country and to help youth continue to have a sense of identity in the wider church.

Through our National network created at the Summit, another tangible outcome was the National Time of Prayer held on Saturday, October 11, 1997. Jarrett Schill, the president of the BC Presbyterian Young People's Society organized a time across the country with Synod PYPS's who were holding Thanksgiving Conventions. He contacted a person in each synod over e-mail, and they exchanged prayer requests by asking their PYPS executives for requests. Then, at the same time–11:45 Eastern Standard Time and respectively across the country–there were close to 500 Presbyterian Youth joined in prayer as we truly lifted the Lord on high.

Here in Toronto, at Morningside High Park, I led this time of prayer at our Convention. Personally, it was not the excitement that 500 youth were joining with me in prayer but it was rather the humility which amazed me–that I knew that God was able to listen to each and every heart across this country. Our God is so awesome!

The focus of the Summit was on how we can be better serving our church.

A major focus of discussion was on a need to return to the basic truths and biblical understandings of our Reformed Tradition. Often in youth ministry today societal issues are emphasized. Youth need an arena for open discussion, especially within the loving church community. However, we need to get back to the basics and be listening to the Word of God.

Youth and adults need to understand why we worship. Appreciating our Reformed tradition and our manner of worship will lead to, what we coined at the Summit as, "Enthusiasm in Tradition". Many youth often find church boring. We suggested that a part of this disinterest is because we are not all educated about our traditions which we are taught to hold near and dear to our hearts. As we work for change, where change is needed, we need to be educated within and about the most fundamental aspect of our community–our worship experience.

Education was another area of intense discussion. Many ministers are not prepared, often, to minister to youth, yet many congregations feel that youth ministry is one of the most important aspects of the church. Our theological colleges need to provide more training for ministers in the area of youth ministry and to provide training for those who are being called to work specifically with youth in the Presbyterian Church.

After much discussion, we were able to be united with Regional Staff and Student Representatives of the Theological Colleges, to bring a motion to the floor of the 123rd General Assembly, just days after our discussion. It was a motion in response to a recommendation to establish a Chair of Youth Ministries at Knox College. This recommendation would cost $250,000, a figure which alone discouraged further discussion.

The Student Representatives, who were active at the Summit, the Committee on Theological Education and the principal of Knox College discussed this need for a chair and other possibilities to still enable a focus upon training for youth ministry. The following amendment was made and was supported by the entire group of Young Adult Representatives and adopted by the court of the 123rd General Assembly. This was that the Committee on Theological Education require the colleges to consult with seminary students involved in youth ministry and synod staff, in their respective areas of the colleges, who are involved with youth on how teen and young adult ministry can be incorporated into the curriculum, including the provision of faculty resources.

This group met in Toronto in early November to discuss this motion and what will be established as a result of it. A committee has been established made up of two seminary students, a faculty representative from the Vancouver School of Theology and a synod youth consultant to define what areas of focus our theological colleges need to be taking in the area of youth ministry. We are excited and encouraged by these actions.

It is essential to build trust through continuity. As young and older participate together in congregational life, we will all make mistakes. However, as we work together, we will challenge one another to use our spiritual gifts.

As young and older participate together in congregational life, we will challenge one another to use our spiritual gifts.

Using our gifts is what we kept returning to as a common need for our church. Often the church gets energized and encouraged when it sees youth excited, dreaming, visioning and challenging each other as the Summit did. Then comes the caution to be careful that we do not get hurt, or that though we have positive outlooks now, they will soon be dashed by politics and routine. Often we hear that we, as youth, have not experienced the struggles that older people have. However, *We Are The Church*–all of us. You are the teachers in this church. You are also those that inspire and vision with all. We all must glorify and enjoy God together, forever. May you be inspired and more importantly challenged by our vision statement reached at the Summit:

We as representatives and advocates of the youth of the Presbyterian Church in Canada are committed to working in and with our church. We commit ourselves to return to our home churches to challenge the people in our congregations, presbyteries and synods. We commit ourselves to being a part of every aspect of our Church, a part of both the joys and the struggles, to the glory of God.

The India Experience

A Message from Esther Powell, President, Women's Missionary Society

- Esther Powell, right, greeting Christians in India. Esther was accompanied by her husband Al an who took the photos on these pages.

It was my privilege to travel from November 15-December 6, 1997 with a wonderful group of Presbyterians, capably led by Marjorie Ross, Associate Secretary for International Ministries, on the Mission Exposure tour to India.

It was a great venture from beginning to end. We do give thanks to all who planned such an enlightening experience. Each day brought exciting adventures which broadened our horizons and deepened our faith.

Included in this "package", and really the main reason to visit India at this time, were the 100 year Jubilee Celebrations taking place amid the beautiful hills of the village of Amkhut, and the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Jobat Christian Hospital in the town of Jobat.

One hundred years ago (1897) Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Buchanan, Canadian Presbyterians, arrived in "Bhil Country" to live and witness to the "Good News" of the Gospel.

In the invitation letter that came about this event was a quotation from the psalmist:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth
(Psalm 72:18-19).

With thanksgiving and praise more than 1,000 Christians gathered to celebrate what God has done among the Bhils, what He is still doing and what He will continue to do for His people.

How blessed we felt being among these Bhil Christians. Having never met before, we instantly felt one in the spirit. There we stood together encouraging one another in the faith. My thoughts immediately turned to the great hymn writer Isaac Watts when he penned the words:

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song.

Joy and love was expressed in so many precious ways:

The delightful dance as they came to greet us .
The touch of the garlands of flowers or peanuts placed around our necks.
The beautiful bead necklaces and Bhili jackets we received.
The carefully carved crosses we lovingly wore.
The beauty as we touched hands and expressed "Salam".
The elegance of the feasts prepared for us.
The warm generous hospitality extended, and,
The thoughtful provisions for all our needs.
The depths of their joy for our presence could not be constrained!

Yes, these are the people that our missionaries have lived and worked among for many years. Together they have served our Lord in wonderful ways. The establishing of churches, primary and Senior Schools, hospitals, health care clinics, nursing schools, educational programs for all ages and much more. How thrilled we were to see, hear and to involve ourselves in the life and activity of the Church of North India and to be aware of the many ways they are striving to uplift and enhance the lives of people.

Canadians serving among the Bhils today are Pauline Brown, Doreen Morrison, Catherine Inglis and Dominic Prosser. How privileged we were to have them all with us as well as Jake and Margaret Vanderzweerde on the tour as we left Bhil country and travelled to Jhansi then north to Batala in the Punjab to visit Clarence and Cathy McMullen.

Their insights into the Indian way of life were helpful at every turn of the road, and there were many! Travel was one of the greatest experiences: we travelled safely by airplane, bus, taxi, train, rickshaw and walking along with the "millions" of others doing the same! Pauline Brown personally took care of our every need. Nothing is easily handled in India, most things have to be "negotiated" and Pauline looked out for our interests in every way.

The words we heard most were "continue to pray for us". The Church of North India is struggling with many issues and most of them the same issues as we in Canada face. The spiritual growth of the people is top priority and plans are in place for implementing programs for this.

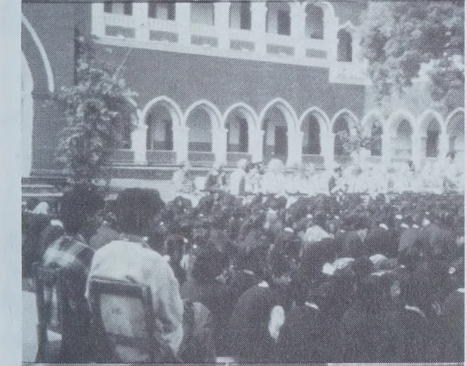
I encourage you to commit a portion of your prayer life each day to pray for the life and activity of the Church of North

IDHYA SATPURA
YEAR JUBILEE
97 TO 1997.
विंध्या सतपुड़ा
१०० वर्षीय जुबली
१८९७ से १९९७

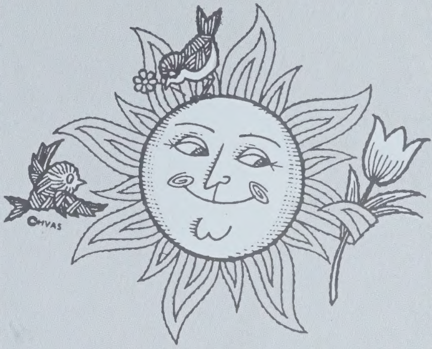
India.

It was my privilege to bring greetings on three occasions and to present gifts of money for special projects on behalf of the Women's Missionary Society to Jobat Christian Hospital, Jobat Weaving project and the Helen MacDonald Memorial School in Jhansi.

GARET LEASK MEMORIAL
ENGLISH SCHOOL



VINDHYA SATPURA



Trust in Him

Like silent thieves at night,
Winter puddles disappear from sight,
And then one glorious, dazzling day
Tulips push their coloured heads
Through the moistened clay.
While drab trees in browns
Lift up their greenish, leafy crowns,
And rivers sparkle a brighter blue,
All Nature sings to me and you
Because a Man upon a roughened Cross
Made our hearts at Easter new,
And glorified the world
For those who trust Him to be true.

Grace Hartley

The Gate is Open

by Glen Davis

Photo: Marjorie Ross

I looked closely at the picture on the bulletin for the third Sunday in November 1997. There was the very church that I was worshipping in last Sunday morning in the city of Nanjing in China, St. Paul's Christian Church. We got there at 9:30 a.m. for the 10:00 o'clock service. The church was packed. I mean, not just full, but packed! Squeezed into the pews, chairs down all the aisles–full–a half-hour before the service started, and they were practising singing hymns.

We went out to the hall, which is in a separate building just outside the church. There were 200 more people in chairs in that hall. The sound system was hooked up to the sanctuary.

People stood around in the courtyard, stood at the windows, which were open, and they stood there all through the service looking in and listening. The singing was enthusiastic. When the minister prayed, everyone said "Amen", and I have never heard the Apostle's Creed said with greater conviction.

After the service we went outside. People streamed out. The pastor came out. Some came to him with their problems and asked for a prayer. Right there in the courtyard with all the people around, he put his hand on their shoulder and prayed for them. One woman came up and pointed to her forehead, and I could see that she had a skin disease. She pointed to me and folded her hands. She was saying, "You, pray for me."

I put my hand on her shoulder and I prayed for her. She couldn't understand my English, but God could.

Some other folks came up to the pastor with a Bible and pointed to a passage. They said, "What does that mean?"

And he explained it to them.

These are people who know that it is important to gather together on Sundays.

And, another thing. We had communion last Sunday. And when I took that piece of bread and held it in my hand and waited until everyone was served, I looked at it, and I thought, "That is the symbol of the body of Christ that is broken for us; it is a symbol of the body of Christ today, which is the church." And I looked at the earnest faces around me, and all the barriers of distance, language, culture and race were broken down. I realized that we were all members of one great family of Christ around the world. I thought of the people in my congregation at home, and I gave thanks to God for all of them, because both congregations are one body in Christ and all of that is made possible because of the once-and-for-all sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us.

Then, as I took the little cup of wine, and I looked at the colour of it, it reminded me of the blood of Christ that was shed for you and me, for all of us, that once-and-for-all sacrifice, poured out for us. I thought of a hymn I had learned in Korean years ago. I had never sung it in English. It goes: "I gave my life for thee, what hast thou given for me?"

The sacrifice of Christ calls for a response. If he gave all for us, what do we give for him? Because of what he has done, when we take this bread and this cup, we can come into the presence of a living God through a new and living way, because the curtain, the wall has been broken down.

Remember that little footnote in the story of the crucifixion that says that the moment Jesus died the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. In other words, a new and living way was opened for you and me.

Friends, the gate is open. Let's go through it, and celebrate with joy, the once-and-for-all sacrifice that Christ made for us.

Excerpted from a sermon Rev. Glen Davis preached on Sunday November 16, 1997 just after his return from a visit to China. Glen is minister at Knox Agincourt, Ontario.

The Reason for Easter

It is Easter, a time of rejoicing.
Do our thoughts turn to bonnets, and spring?
Do our minds drift to sweet chocolate bunnies?
Or some cuddly, soft fuzzy thing?

Do we dream of a basket of goodies?
Or an egg hunt in the neighbor's backyard?
Do we think about fun family gatherings?
Or receiving a bright Easter card?

Or is Easter for sporting new clothing?
Or perhaps a new style for our hair?
Is it daffodils, tulips and blossoms?
Or the scent of new life in the air?

But stop! What's the reason for Easter?
What makes it a festive affair?
Was it not that Christ rose on that morning
Giving meaning to life everywhere?

Christ was God. He descended from heaven
To live humbly on earth as a man.
He suffered, and died as a criminal,
To fulfil God's redemptional plan.

Can we know of the depth of Christ's suffering?
Can we fathom His anguish and pain?
'Twas for us He was tortured, forsaken,
Went to Hell, then ascended again.

What if Jesus had failed in His mission,
To die for the sins of each one?
There would not be a reason for Easter.
There'd be nothing to celebrate then.

So during this season of Easter,
Keep in mind this wee bit of advice:
Let's take time on this happy occasion
To thank God for that great Sacrifice.

Helen Dowd

Cracking the Code

Nestlé systematically violating International Code, concludes new report Interagency Group on Breastfeeding Monitoring documents serious violations

New research recently published by the UK Based Interagency Group on Breastfeeding Monitoring (IGBM) reveals that Nestlé and other leading manufacturers of baby milk products are violating the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes. The IGBM, a coalition of 27 churches, academic institutions, experts on infant feeding and leading agencies, including UNICEF-UK, Save the Children, and Voluntary Services Overseas, reports that their research conclusively demonstrates that the major infant formula manufacturers continue to breach the International Code despite its passage 15 years ago.

In a document entitled *Cracking the Code*, the IGBM documents violations by companies that include Gerber, Mead Johnson, Nestlé, Nutricia and Wyeth in all four countries studied – Bangladesh, Poland, South Africa and Thailand. In each country 800 pregnant women and mothers and 120 health workers in 40 facilities were interviewed.

In a press release dated January 8, 1997 the IGBM reports that:

> *Women in all four countries were found to receive company sponsored information which promoted artificial feeding without recognizing breastfeeding as the optimal form of infant nutrition. Results were highest in Poland where over one-third of mothers (36%) received such information–39% came from Nutricia and 17% from Gerber. In South Africa 28% of mothers had received such information; Nestlé supplied nearly half (48%).*

Nastlé

Nasty, eh?

dangers of bottle feeding: 4,000 babies die every day

Further the IGBM calls on:

- the International Association of Infant Food Manufacturers (IFM) to restate its commitment to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant WHA Resolutions, in all countries and to agree on concrete proposals towards strict implementation of the Code by its members;
- national governments to take steps to raise Code awareness and take action to give affect to the Code and subsequent WHA Resolutions;
- the need for rigorous and continued independent monitoring of Code violations.

IFM response

As usual the IFM was in denial and rejected the report. In a release dated January 7, Dr. Andrée Bronner, Secretary

UNICEF/Mushtaq Khan, Islamabad.

The child with the bottle is a girl–she died the next day. Her twin brother was breastfed. This woman's mother-in-law told her she didn't have enough milk for both children, so she breastfed the boy. Certainly she could have fed both, because suckling induces milk production. Even if she could not produce sufficient milk–unlikely as that would be–a better alternative would have been a wet-nurse. Ironically, this could have been the grandmother, a common practice before the advent of bottle-feeding.

'Use my picture if it will help,' said this mother. 'I don't want others to make the same mistake.'

general of the IFM claimed "the IFM supports the WHO Code" and charged that the IGBM report was "biased in design and execution." Calling for transparent, impartial and effective Code monitoring, the IFM accused the IGBM of having links to activists (those who promote breastfeeding–surely!) and the IFM claimed that they were unaware of the IGBM research (bogus again!).

In response the IGBM issued a second press release to clarify its research methodology:

"With regard to the experimental design used for the research, the random sampling framework used to investigate the violations is a standard, epidemiologically sound technique used by governments, research organizations, WHO, UNICEF and others to assess the prevalence of health conditions internationally.

"With regard to the protocol for the research and IFM's awareness of it; a letter was sent to IFMs on June 11th with the protocol including an invitation to comment which they acknowledged on June 27th.

"The representatives from the IGBM are very disappointed with the IFM's response. The aim of conducting this research was to provide objective data in order to open a dialogue between the IFM and others...to find a way forward to better implement the International Code..."

Contact INFACT Canada for a full copy of *Cracking the Code.*

– Reprinted with permission from INFACT Canada Newsletter Winter 1997.

PROTECT, PROMOTE AND SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING JOIN INFACT CANADA

INFACT Canada:

- is a non-profit, non governmental organization which promotes better maternal and infant health by protecting breastfeeding and fostering appropriate mother and infant nutrition
- works through a network of groups and individuals across Canada and internationally who support and contribute to its activities
- does research and produces award-winning educational materials on maternal and infant feeding concerns
- supports international infant nutrition projects
- monitors and critiques the marketing and

promotional practices of the infant food industry
- lobbies for full implementation of the WHO International Code
- seeks to influence governmental policy related to the protection and promotion of breastfeeding

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
- Join INFACT Canada and learn more about the issues. You'll receive our quarterly newsletter.
- Support INFACT Canada with your membership and donations.
- Monitor the marketing practices of the infant food industry in your local community, health care system and media.
- Lobby for implementation of the WHO Code.
- Put pressure on the industry to change its promotional practices.

INFACT Canada
6 Trinity Square
Toronto, Ontario Canada
M5G 1B1
Tel: 416 595-9819 Fax: 416 591-9355
E-mail: infact@ftn.net
www.infactcanada.ca

Breastfeeding
Environmentally friendly

Aging

Night fears of the youth
transforming gradually to
renewing, healing sleep.

Haiku by Betty Ho

Here in this Holy, Jagged Place

I peer into the mystery of your cross,
positioned not some place in history,
but here, present, between us, you
and I, our loves, our hopes.
Mortals, we strike, defend, fill the
air with our complaint,
recoil in horror of ourselves,
despairing of the intimacy our
hearts crave.
This jagged shadow lies between
us, arms outstretched in the
bloody overture of peace
whispered words carry to my
walled-in silence, where I wait, for what?
and when I fall, arms opened to the
wound you bear, I find it sweet
My arms find someone else to lift their weight,
caught in this holy, jagged place,
we weep,
find hope, begin again.

Judith Frost

DOING JUSTICE: ON EMILY, ON PAIN AND NEW LIFE

I remember, pregnant for the first time, eight months along, looking down at that huge bulge in the middle of me, its occupant's constant activity often visible from across the room, and wondering if it were at all possible to avoid what stood between these moments of expectation and the realization of a dream of new life. I'd read the books and I'd taken the classes. I had a fairly clear, if second-hand, notion of the character of the valley of the shadow.

Emily (and her sister) and twenty-one years later, I think of the church's contemporary contemplation of the possibilities of new life. As always the church likes the idea of Easter, but, having read the Book, seen the movie, it is feeling rather reluctant about Good Friday. It seems that life has a cost. It is not to be juggled from the ashes of positive thinking or conjured up out of the latest winds of business school doctrines of management. The way is not to be found with a wet finger in the breeze.

So what is the hard work on the road to new life these days? Like the unavoidable agonies of labour, what is the church's pain, risk, messiness, inconvenience and hard work, that issue in resurrection and new life? Is it somehow new in these days or, like labour, about the same as it has always been? I tend to think the latter.

Exactly those good things that are required of us—the love of mercy, the doing of justice—are exactly those things that fill the stories of Scripture. And for good reason. Justice is not another way of saying charity; it is risky, discomforting, painful. It confronts the powerful, disturbs and challenges the status quo. It has this way of smudging those neat lines that separate worship from politics. We dole out charity, even mercy, to those who make no claims against us, who do not challenge our goodness or disinterestedness. Charity keeps the babe in the womb, being an expression of both power and moral complacency. Justice makes demands on us, beginning with the humble recognition that the claim made against us by another may be legitimate—whether down the street, on the street, or across the world.

But we prefer, as Bonhoeffer put it, "to substitute ambivalent conversation within anaesthetised institutions for the discomfort and costliness of sacrificial action." In the church, we search for safe places for sex and economics. This is called church doctrine, not justice. And the babes are stillborn.

Wanting both to reap the benefits of mammon and to be found within the prophetic tradition of the church, we search for ways to keep a foot in each camp. We have tried surrogate parenthood, preferring that others bear the child. Let the United Church (or the

Catholics, or the coalitions) bear the pain and endure the long night and the fissures and the blood. We'll visit the child afterwards; perhaps even offer to add our name to the birth certificate.

We like the adoption option as well. We hand out awards each year to someone who does something that, well, we might have wished we'd thought of it or done it, but then if we had actually done it, well, you never know what might have happened. From afar we watch the birthing, murmur in approval at the beauty of the newborn, and add the baby's name to our family tree and the picture to the family album, though even a casual observer can detect the aberration in genes.

So what are the gooey, toothy grins and first steps and first words and germination and increase—and sure, smelly diapers and sleepless nights and tears and risks that we foreclose by our reluctance? As we gather the world to our bosom, its dirty hands and sharp edges and ragged clothes, its teary faces and its enthusiasms, we are changed by the experience and the life that flows two ways.

Lee McKenna-Ducharme

Doing Justice: On Emily, On Pain and New Life was taken from the current issue of ***Women's Perspectives*** (formerly *From A Woman's Perspective*). WP is a newsletter with the purpose of keeping women in touch with each other and sharing with the whole church their theological perspectives, biblical insights, special interests, joys and concerns.

The newsletter is prepared by an editorial committee in co-operation with the Women in Ministry Committee. It is published in May and November by Ministry & Church Vocations, Life and Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Editorial Committee consists of Judee Archer Green, Margaret Henderson, Minnie Kilpatrick, Fairlie Ritchie, June Stevenson, Maureen Walter and Pat Martin.

In exchange for the cost of an ad, the committee offered this article.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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Old Testament Prophets

A Puzzle

by Jim Phillips

Z	J	E	R	E	M	I	A	H
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AARON (Exodus 7:1)
AMOS
DANIEL
ELIJAH
ELISHA
EZEKIEL
HABAKKUK
HAGGAI
HOSEA
HULDAH
ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
JOEL
JONAH
MALACHI
MICAH
MIRIAM (Exodus 15:20)
NAHUM
NATHAN
OBADIAH
ZECHARIAH
ZEPHANIAH

Memories of Easters Past

by Gordon R. Lean

Tradition, so very often, moulds our lives. Church and family traditions in many ways set the pattern for how we think and how we act. Much of it has been for our good.

Good Friday was always a solemn day in our home. Almost like a Sunday. Bacon and eggs and hot cross buns was our fare for breakfast. Then we'd listen to radio programs that had as their theme the Holy Land, the sufferings of Christ, or music that was built around the Story of the Cross.

Later we'd gather in God's house, and take in the three-hour service of meditation on the seven last words of Christ, and sing such properly melancholy hymns as "O, Come and mourn with me awhile, Jesus, my Lord, is crucified."

I remember that, should a chum or playmate tell a joke or make a funny remark, we felt a little sheepish and guilty if we laughed. And, looking back, I don't think the little discipline that was imposed hurt us a bit. Has the pendulum swung too far in the opposite direction?

But Easter morning was glorious! The church, denuded to stark barrenness for Good Friday, came alive with spring flowers, potted plants and a thousand lilies, sending forth their delicate fragrance throughout the sanctuary to caress and delight the senses.

Then the great organ would peal forth, and we would sing with such joy:

"O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of Heaven, The Glorious King,
O'er sin and death rose triumphing.
Allelujah!"

I discovered, watching from the choir loft, that even the look on people's faces was different at Easter. There was a peace on the faces of those who had gone through deep sorrow. In the eyes of others, for whom life was an intolerable burden, there was hope. And there was joy, as if the risen Lord had reached down and touched their spirits with his...and maybe he had. And the very atmosphere was charged with the glorious realization that Jesus was alive! He is alive!...and everything was going to be all right.

One of the most beautiful passages in the Bible is found in John 20:20, "Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord." Disappointment changed to happy realization. Sorrow turned to joy. Defeat turned to victory. And all because of Him who showed them his hands and his feet!

The wounds of Jesus mean my pardon from sin. They mean my acceptance with God. They mean my release from the power of sin and death (Romans 8:2, Colossians 1:13). Why should not my heart burst with joy at the thought of my risen Lord and his marvellous grace? And shall not my Easter peace make me cry, as Thomas of old, "My Lord and my God!"?

Gordon Lean passed away June 18, 1997. This manuscript was found on his desk ready to mail. We extend our sympathy to his wife Mary, and our thanks for sending this in.

Why should not my heart burst with joy at the thought of my risen Lord and his marvellous grace? And shall not my Easter peace make me cry, as Thomas of old, "My Lord and my God!"?

IN MEMORIAM

Mavis Jean Hyndman

Mavis Jean Hyndman died in Calgary, Alberta on January 11, 1998. She was 75 years of age. Mavis was appointed to missionary service in Japan by the Women's Missionary Society in late 1963, and designated in Knox Church, Victoria. In 1964 she began her work with the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

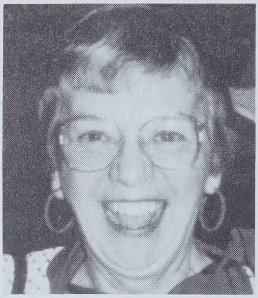
Miss Hyndman was active in CGIT and until the time of her appointment to Japan was Girl's Organization Secretary in the Synodical of British Columbia. She spent 15 years in Japan as English Language Secretary in the General Affairs office of the KCCJ where she was secretary to the then General Secretary Rev. In Ha Lee, and worked also with the East Asian Christian Council. The church there considered her work invaluable.

Mavis once said, "The influence that Christ has had in my life lies with my early contacts and associations from the cradle roll in Grace Church, Calgary. None of us should underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit and all of us must meet the challenges of each and every day serving Him as He first served us."

Mavis is fondly remembered at the national office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada where she had a wide set of interests and friends. She returned from Japan to Canada where she worked as Administrative Secretary for the then Board of World Mission.

While in Toronto she was a member of Gateway Community Church, North York. Staff remember her devotion to her preemie grand niece Stacie, in Women's College Hospital, Toronto, when she spent six months offering tender loving care.

Following her retirement Mavis moved back to Calgary to enjoy the fellowship and the service opportunities at Grace Church. All who knew Mavis give thanks to God for a wonderful friend, and for a life that was lived as a testimony to the compassionate, caring Lord whom she served. A memorial service was held at Gateway Church on January 20, 1998, attended by staff of the PCC, friends, and colleagues from her days in Japan.


- Mavis Hyndman

Bernard Embree

Rev. Dr. Bernard Lloyd Melton Embree died suddenly of a heart attack at home on December 18, 1997. Bernard was born March 25, 1923 in Summerland, BC. He will be deeply missed and always loved by his dear wife Ruth Evelyn, son Maynard E.W., daughters Karenne Hartley and Karelle Broyles, their spouses and his seven grandchildren, Paul and Blaise DeLong and their families, his mother Alice, his brother Maynard J., and his sisters Maretta Ketchum and Arlene Dodding and their families.

Bernard served as Professor of Biblical Languages and Theology in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and China, as a missionary of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. He earned a Doctorate of Theology (Knox College of the University of Toronto) and was granted an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity (Taiwan Theological College & Seminary). Bernard will be remembered by his many friends, colleagues, and students for his unquenchable intellectual curiousity, concern for justice and deeply held faith in God.

A memorial service was held at West Vancouver Presbyterian Church, on December 23, 1997.

Wandering in the Wilderness

A Bible Study

by Erin Chrisfield, Regional Staff Person

The stories of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness serve as a base for looking at the role of WMS. You may present this study with a leader and two readers. There are Bible references to supplement the stories and discussion questions to further explore the relationship between the scripture passages and the work of WMS.

Voice 1: I am so tired. We have been traveling for so long. Days. Weeks. It seems like a lifetime ago that we left Pharaoh's army behind at the Red Sea. I can see the line of Israelites stretching out in front of me. Behind, hundreds more follow. My husband and oldest son are somewhere near the back, herding the livestock, trying to keep them all together and alive in this harsh desert. My daughter is somewhere ahead, walking with a group of children. They look so small and thin, carrying all our possessions in baskets. The baby is too young to walk so far. I have been carrying him all this way. I don't know what I will feed my children tonight. Our food supply is running low and we are rationing water now. Why are we here? Maybe we should have stayed in Egypt. Even in slavery we had more than this. Where are we going? The desert is so hot, dry, unending. Where is our God now?

Read the following scripture passages about the Israelite's cries for help:

Exodus 15:22-24
Exodus 16:1-3
Exodus 17:1-3

Leader: The Israelites were free from Egypt! They were no longer slaves. No longer persecuted. Their God had freed them! But they faced hardship in the desert. This was their time of wandering in the wilderness. They did not accept this easily. They complained, they argued, they questioned God's plan for them. And God answered them.

Read the following scripture passages of how God answered their cries:

Exodus 15:25-27
Exodus 16:4-7a
Exodus 17:4-7

In groups of about four, answer the following questions:

Why did the Israelites find it so hard to put their faith in God?
What can we learn from this story of the Israelites time of wandering in the wilderness?
Have you ever experienced a time of wandering in the wilderness? Share that experience with others..

Voice 2: I am so tired. I have been doing this work for so long. It seems like a lifetime ago that I joined the Women's Missionary Society. All the things we have learned over the years. All the funds raised and projects completed. And there is still so much to do. My group has just left and I am locking up the church after our meeting. There are only seven of us now. We are getting older. It is harder each year to meet our objective and to keep up with our visiting and service projects. It is my turn to lead the Bible study next month and I don't know what I will do. Why are we here? Where are we going? Our work is so important! It must continue! But how? Where is our God now?

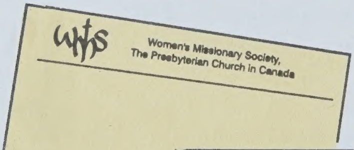
Read the WMS purpose

The Women's Missionary Society is a community of Christians whose purpose, in response to the love of God in Jesus Christ, is to encourage one another and all the people of the church to be involved in local and world mission through prayer, study, service and fellowship.

Leader: The WMS gave women a voice at a time when women were considered relatively unimportant. The WMS gave women a place to do God's work in the world before women could vote in the church courts or serve as ministers. For many of us, the WMS continues to meet our need for Christian community, for friendship and support, for a way to do God's work in the world. But the world is changing, the church is changing. Like the Israelites, we are searching and questioning. What is God's plan for us? How can we continue to meet the needs of our current members and at the same time reach out and include those who have different ideas, different needs? Like the Israelites in the desert, this is our time of wandering in the wilderness. And God is answering us. God answers us in the goals of the Five-Year plan. God answers us in the resolution to prayerfully consider changes in our purpose, to consider a change in our name and in the name of the Glad Tidings magazine. God answers us in the group, presbyterial and synodical anniversaries being celebrated throughout Canada. God answers us in the continuing commitment of women and men in our church to the work of mission.

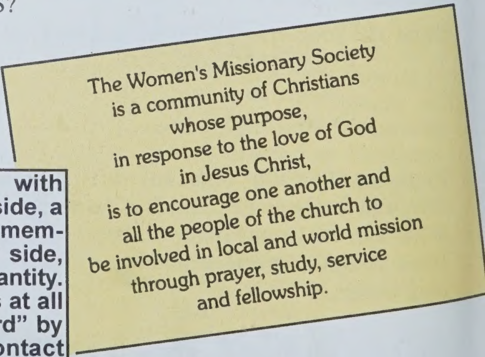
In small groups, answer the following questions:

What are the most important things that membership in the WMS has given you?
What is one thing that you most want to keep the same about WMS?
What is one thing that can be changed or a new thing that can be done?
What is your hope for the future of the WMS?



WMS

Women's Missionary Society,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada



The Women's Missionary Society
is a community of Christians
whose purpose,
in response to the love of God
in Jesus Christ,
is to encourage one another and
all the people of the church to
be involved in local and world mission
through prayer, study, service
and fellowship.

Business sized cards with updated purpose on one side, a new logo and a space for member's name on the other side, are now available in quantity. Could be used by officers at all levels or as a "calling card" by individual members. Contact the WMS Book Room.

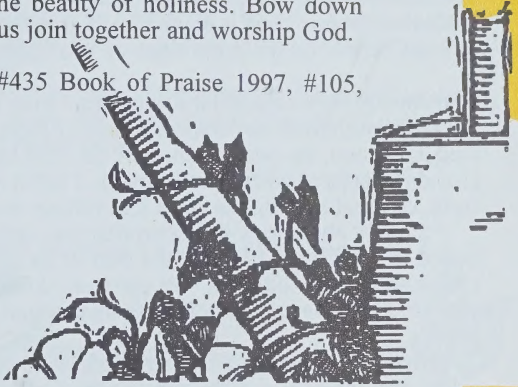
Butterflies Are Free

An Easter Worship Service

by L. June Stevenson

Call to Worship: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Bow down before him; His glory proclaim. Come let us join together and worship God.

Hymn: All things bright and beautiful (#435 Book of Praise 1997, #105, 1972) verses 1, 4



Psalm: 131 (NRSV) In unison:

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned
child that is with me.
O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

Hymn: God, Who made the earth (#705 Book of Praise 1997, #106, 1972) verses 1, 2, 4

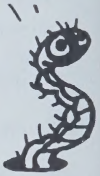
Prayer (In unison): Our loving God, we come together in this season of Jesus' suffering and death. We, too, know what it is to suffer condemnation, humiliation, sorrow and grief. And, yet, we find it difficult to understand a love so vast, that you chose to die so that we might enjoy life in all its abundance. Quiet our souls in the knowledge of your love. Open our hearts in the understanding of your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Meditation - Part 1: The Caterpillar Stage

[If possible, have a picture of or a hand crafted caterpillar at the front for people to look at - see "Craft Time" below.]

One summer when the children were little we found a large green caterpillar in my mother's garden. We were returning that day to our home in the far north. Thinking we might learn something from that caterpillar, we put it in a jar with some fresh green leaves and took it with us. At home, I put the jar on our kitchen counter. We watched the caterpillar. For a few days, it moved around and ate from the leaves.

I thought about how we humans are sometimes like caterpillars. Often, life is ordinary, even dull. We plod along, getting nowhere fast. Our world is narrow and limited. We cannot see beyond one day to the next. We cannot see the purpose of our days. We may even wonder what life is all about. And yet, we carry on, doing the best we can with what we have. We try to be the best that we can be. And, sometimes, on the horizons of our lives, the storm clouds darken. Disaster strikes.



Scripture: Mark 15:33-39

Hymn: O sacred head, sore wounded (#239 Book of Praise 1997, #181, 1972) verses 1, 2

Meditation - Part 2: The Pupa Stage
[If desired pass around a bowl of cotton balls for people to hold and say: "Take a cotton ball and reflect on the pupa stage as you listen."]

One day my little caterpillar disappeared from the jar. I searched the kitchen counter, looking into every nook and cranny. Finally, I found the caterpillar in the kitchen curtain, spinning a cocoon, as caterpillars will do. Not knowing what else to do, and feeling I had already interfered with nature enough, I left it alone. I watched it gradually disappear from sight, covered and hidden in its marvellous woven home.

I thought about how the caterpillar was only doing what was natural, what it was compelled to do. Trying to make the best of its situation, it found a place to spin its cocoon. Life is sometimes like that. We carry on, doing what we feel is right. Sometimes life only gets cloudier. We are plunged into misery and despair by grief, unhappiness, uncertainty, pain.

Often, the only way we can respond is to withdraw–to curl up in our small cocoons of safety and ignorance. Sometimes even God seems hidden from our view. Sometimes it seems as though our prayers go unheard, unanswered.

Jesus knew the dark night of the soul. Maligned, condemned to death, crucified, dead and buried. His faithful followers plunged into despair and confusion. What was life all about? What was the meaning of Jesus' ministry if it was to end in a grave? What was the meaning of life?

Scripture: Mark 15: 40-47

Hymn: O sacred head (#239 Book of Praise 1997, #181, 1972) verses 3, 4

Meditation - Part 3: The Butterfly Stage
[Have a brightly coloured picture of or hand crafted butterfly at front for people to see.]

My little caterpillar died in the folds of my kitchen curtain. It was a lesson for me, and I hope for my children, that you shouldn't interfere with nature.

Had that caterpillar been able to complete its life cycle, it would one day have emerged a beautiful butterfly. That is the message of the resurrection. Christ endured the travesty of the crucifixion and the grave because he knew that beyond the cross, and the grave, was resurrection to a new life.

I remember a book I once read about Jewish people in the concentration camps. It was one of those camps where the talented were encouraged to paint so that international visitors could see that they were being treated well. One girl painted a beautiful butterfly. Someone asked why, in the midst of persecution and imprisonment, she would portray such a creature. "Butterflies are free," she answered.

Indeed, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, who pioneered in palliative care, said she used the metaphor of the life stages of the butterfly to explain death to children. Dying, she explained, is like entering the pupa stage. But beyond that, she said, there is the glorious hope of a new life, in another form. Like the homely caterpillar, we will all one day be transformed.

We have heard the resurrection message, and we believe that in Christ, we are new creatures. And so I wonder what it is about our lives that keeps us from being Easter people. What ties us down, keeps us plodding along like caterpillars? What is it that holds us so tightly in our pupa-like cocoons that we are hampered from expressing our joy in Christ?

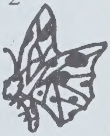
Why are we so afraid of change? I heard a joke last week that speaks to our resistance to change, to our lack of faith. Two caterpillars were sitting on a branch. Two beautiful butterflies flew by, dipping their wings in the air. One caterpillar turned to the other and said, "You'll never get me up in one of those!"

Christ died to set us free from all that keeps us enslaved, enchained. We don't have to wait until our earthly bodies are dead to enjoy the resurrection. Our spirits can soar now–we are free. Let us enjoy life. Christ is risen, indeed.

Scripture: Mark 16: 1-7

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today (#243 Book of Praise 1997,#190 1972) verses 1, 2

Litany Prayer: (Responses in bold type)



Lord God, sometimes we plod along like caterpillars, uninspired, confused, afraid.
Keep us quiet and steady in hope.
Creator God, you made all your creatures - caterpillars, cats, crows and people like me.
Keep us in awe of how wonderfully we all are formed.
Loving God, sometimes life is cloudy and stormy. Bad things happen to good people. We feel cut off from you.
Help us to remember you promised to be with us always.
Gracious God, we think of others in our world today who need our love and care - orphans, refugees, victims of HIV/AIDS, those living with violence at home, in their countries....
Help us to be your instruments of peace in a broken world.
God of all possibilities, we are your chosen people. You have set us free, free to rise above our ordinary lives.
By your life, we are inspired; by your death, we are humbled; by your resurrection, we are transformed.
Christ is risen.
Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today (#243 Book of Praise 1997,#190 1972) verses 3-4

Benediction: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ (2 Cor. 5:17-18). Go forward in newness of life. Christ is risen, indeed.

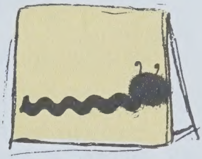
Craft Instructions

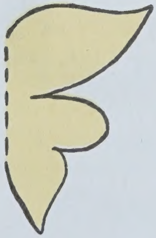
Materials: small cards, black zigzag tape, black pompoms, black markers; white cotton balls; magazines, scissors, pipe cleaners.

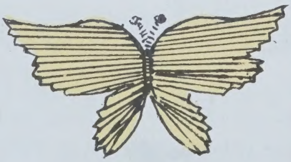
Directions: You may wish to have a craft time before or after the worship. For the first meditation, *The Caterpillar Stage*, place cards or name cards could be made by each member. Have on hand small name cards; if these are to be used as place cards you should be able to fold them in half. Provide medium or large zigzag tape and medium black pompoms. Members should cut and paste a piece of zigzag tape for the body about two inches long on the card, paste a pompom for a the head and draw two antenna with black marker.

For *The Pupa Stage*, all that is needed is a bowl of cotton balls to be passed around.

Butterflies can be made for *The Butterfly Stage* using colourful pages from magazines. Have members cut a shape from the butterfly pattern below, enlarged to size you want. Paper can be folded like an accordion and tied in the middle with a pipe cleaner, twisting at the top for antennae. Spread out butterfly.







Forward in Faith

During the Lenten season, I am reminded of a verse from Ecclesiastes 5:20 NIV: As water reflects a face, so a [person's] heart reflects the [person]. This is the time to reflect as an individual or as a society. What do our lives portray?

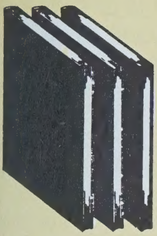
R - remembering and acting on the Lord's promises.
E - everlasting life is ours to claim.
F - forgiving one another to be part of our lives.
L - living out daily our Christian faith.
E - exalting; praising God.
C - caring and compassionate to those we meet.
T - testifying that Christ is our Saviour.

Notes:
1. All groups please file your returns with Revenue Canada if you are registered as a charitable group.
2. Have your financial records checked for errors each year. Keep all records for a minimum of six years.
3. Income from Presbyterials as of December 31, 1997 was $869,824.

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

Shoes From Heaven

From a wealth of experience in Christian Education, Rev. William Moody has put together an 86-page book of Bible-based stories, object talks, surprise features, musical items, games, contests, etc. to assist in teaching Bible principles to children and young teens. Also included are valuable teaching tips for use in church or home. Send $4.95 plus $1.50 for mailing to – Rev. W. H. Moody, 413 - 3097 Palmer Drive, Burlington, ON L7M 4G8.



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The Adventures of Fergie the Frog, a series of books by Nancy Cocks, illustrated by Michael Leveille: Fergie Welcome Home C034, Fergie Fails a Test C0385, Fergie Loses a Friend C0369 and Fergie Frog Scout C0370. Novalis 1997. Price $4.95 each.

Little Fergie learns about grief, failing a test, forgiveness after anger, being good for more than one day. Fergie learns about his feelings; dumb excuses–that frogs don't get fevers or toothaches; that he is in trouble when he is called Ferguson; and how hard it is to behave after one has won a prize for being the best. In other words, how tough life is!

These books are illustrated and end with reflections and a prayer. The prayer prompts us about what help to ask God for in these life situations. Young listeners wanted me to "read straight', "hold the book so we can see the pictures" and "don't make funny voices". Their directions make reading this story difficult. We decided that they could say/read Fergie's lines and I could read/say the others. Fergie books give each of us a precious opportunity to talk about incidents of the day, to know that we are still okay and be encouraged to try again.

After several readings, the physical book becomes a prop. Great for bedtime. Helpful for busting everyday logjams.

Martha Aylott

Three books by Maria Stam: Maria Stam, freelance writer from London, Ontario is known to readers of Glad Tidings for her poetry and her prose. Maria's books are available in some London book stores or from Erkens Publishing, 362 Hollywood Crescent, London, ON N6G 1E9. Each book is $12.75 (postage and GST included):

Crossing the Bridge. A Novel by Maria Stam. 1992.
Crossing the Bridge is based on Maria's personal experience of life under Nazi rule. Like Nora, the woman in the story, Maria grew up in Germany and later emigrated to Canada. After many years of silence Nora finally is able to share her life experiences with her granddaughter. Of her story, author Margaret Laurence said, "...ordinary people like us all are pawns in the horrible political games/wars. Your story needs to be told."

Wandering Between Two Worlds. A collection of poetry by Maria Stam. 1994.
Maria Stam's poems have been published in many magazines. Her poetry readings have been well received. Rendered with feeling, sensitivity and discernment, Maria's poetry is in language that is realistic and perceptive. Lovers of poetry will want to add this to their collection.

When the Time is Right and other stories by Maria Stam. 1997.

When the Time is Right describes experiences in the life of ordinary women of all ages. Some women realize they need new directions in their marriage or occupation, while others, ignoring their own flaws, have to to deal with unpredictable human actions.

RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS ISSUE

Wilderness Walking

Dear Heart Come Home: The Path of Midlife Spirituality by Joyce Rupp. Crossroad Publishing. G6004 $20.95

This book has been called an invitation - and a treasure map–to discover the spiritual richness that is uniquely yours. For most though, it is a warm hug, a joyful recognition of someone who understands, and a promise that you are more than okay.

At many points in our lives, we encounter dry stretches of emptiness and loss of vision. The good news is that those times offer a doorway to a new vision, and fresh water for the journey.

Prayer Walking: a Simple Path to Body-and-Soul Fitness by Linus Mundy. Abbey Press. G5542 $7.50

Take a stroll with your soul! Prayer-walking is something that most everyone who is blessed with reasonable health can do. Get away from it all so you can find it all. We often don't hear our own selves above the clang and clatter of our lives, let alone eavesdrop on the secret murmurings of our hearts. Somewhere along the way, you might just realize that those murmurings come from God's heart too.

Prayers Against Depression by Lance Martin, oil paintings by Carol Martin. Desert Ministries. G3022 $8.95

"The Lonesome Valley", "the little black dog that nips at your heels and won't go away", "the dark night of your soul"... anyone who has experienced depression or has seen the effects of depression on a loved one, will recognize these images.

"Comfort, comfort, my people, says your God, speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her that her warfare has ended..." is the word of hope the author of these prayers takes from Isaiah. From his own struggle with clinical depression, Martin extends a helping hand to guide others out of the wilderness and across the Jordan.

On Frequent Journeys: Worship Resources on Uprooted People. Edited by Rebekah Chevalier. United Church Publishing House. 1997. G5434 $14.95

In conjunction with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Year of Churches in Solidarity with Uprooted People and The United Church of Canada's mission theme on uprooted peoples, *On Frequent Journeys* is a collection of worship resources from around the world. It includes prayers, litanies, reflections, and worship outlines, interspersed with stories of uprooted people.

Everyday Sacred: a Woman's Journey Home by Sue Bender. Harper Collins G5700 $18.00

This story is about a bowl waiting to be filled. When Sue Bender began to write again, she also began to make a clay bowl. She remembered the words of a wise person, "It's not pots we are forming, it is ourselves". True enough, with the bowl, came long lost words and a way out of a spiritual wilderness full of tasks to complete, but empty of meaning. Sue began to see everyday, ordinary things as sacred and life became again a sacrament.

Teen Emphasis

Teenagers Preparing for the Real World: a Formula for Success by Chad Foster. Somerville House. Y2143 $14.95

This is a no-nonsense, let's get down to what counts, book of plain good advice that you will want to give every young person in your life, or place in your church library. It's not preachy, not moralistic, it is funny, and it's smart talk.

Chad Foster talks about money, how much is enough, having passion for what you do, finding a way to earn a living and be contented doing it. With the job climate continuing to change, now is the time for teens to learn the value of people skills, early career preparation, integrity, communication skills and community service.

Foster excites his readers with all of the possibilities that are open to them, in an age when the media says there is no hope.

Dear Friends

Joy Randall
Changhua Christian Hospital
135 Nan Siau Street
Changhua, Taiwan, 500,
R.O.C.
Fall 1997

Thinking of you especially at this time of Thanksgiving and especially for your prayers and support throughout the whole year.

Sharing some of the things we are thankful for: Our hospital received Medical Centre status for our accreditation and was fully recognized July 1st. We had a special worship service of rededication of staff in the various departments. Their plans/goals for the future were put on paper cut out of grapes and placed on a tree at front. Five or six directors of various departments said a few words and placed something representative of what they said on a table at the front. This was a moving service. Pray that we may be given the strength and wisdom to carry these promises out to their fullest.

Our hospital's Skin Graph with Love Foundation was honoured by the President and Government of Taiwan for all its good works, but in particular the work for drug abusers. Pray our hospital can still continue to have a witness of God's love and concern for the people of central Taiwan.

In November 1997 Joy Randall was given a special award for "respected religious leaders" by the Ministry of the Interior Department of Taiwan. *This award is for missionaries who are involved in areas of social concern. Joy's service with Changhua's Community Health Department and the Skin Graft with Love Foundation were recognized.*

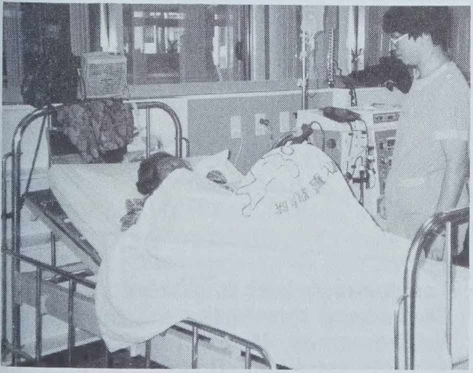


Photo: Marjorie Ross

- Ward in new hospital.

Nurses' Day in May, I was recognized for 25 years service in our department and given a gold chain. Our Candlelight service was televised this year to our community. We continue to promote Breast Self-Examination against cancer for staff, the churches and community. The whole hospital promotes "No Smoking" in hospital and community. We are starting to work on a project to prevent "Abuse in women and children." Pray we can continue to overcome the health problems in society today.

New staff (over 130) have arrived and completed their orientation. There are a few new Christian Nurses, but I trust through our brief worship in each ward each a.m., and other opportunities, that more may come to learn of God and His love for them. Pray for our new staff and all those involved in teaching and In-Service Education.

Eng Hok Church has started to build its new church of [seven] floors. They expect it will take about two years. Our attendance keeps up at over 230 each Sunday. They expect it to cost approximately $400,000 Cdn and they have about a third of the money already. It is amazing how much offering comes in most Sundays–$10,000 Cdn for the building fund alone. Thank God for His goodness.

Appreciate your prayers for my health, holidays, education and spiritual aspects. [Joy also reports she is having less pain from arthritis in her hips and knees.]

The Taiwanese woman who has lived with me for 20 years has ovarian cancer. She had surgery in August and is now having chemotherapy. With treatment and prayers we hope she will have a few more months. Her spirit is very good and she realizes the seriousness of her situation.

May God bless you throughout the coming year.

Love,

Joy

Donald MacKay,
c/o Clerk of Synod
R.R.#1, Rte. 245,
Merigomish, NS B0K 1G0
December 1997

Christmas really celebrates the transition for humanity from the promise of the Messiah to come and the fulfulment of that promise in the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. It is the ultimate reaching out of the divine to humanity, in searching need. It is for those of faith, the turning point, the beginning of a new time, a new phase of relationships and the completion of hope, indeed a celebration in transition.

Nigeria, my home for over twenty years (off and on since 1971) is a country at this Christmas season looking forward to yet another transition. A political process has begun to reinstate a democratic system. A second stage occurs this week when all 31 states elect representatives for their state Houses of Assemblies. It seems to be a very quiet affair, hopefully peaceful, as we take another step toward an elected President and government by October 1998. Pray for this period of transition in the giant of Africa.

My personal life is very much in transition. Already the mental packing and leave taking is in process. In August 1997 I accepted a position with the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces, PCC, as a Regional Synod Staff Person to be based somewhere in its bounds.

- Donald MacKay, centre, at Trinity College graduation official turning on of water from well funded by Live the Vision, Presbyterian Church in Canada. Left: Archbishop Usoro, Chairman of Trinity College Council; right Rev. David Onuoha, chaplain of the College.

It is a difficult process leaving many friends and the excitement of life in a theological college. The idea of not having 200 students coming and going at all times will require some adjustment, but then that is what transition is all about. Do continue to pray and support me in this transition, especially the returning and settling into a new assignment in a new home.

May the spirit of the transition of God's love in the birth of the Christ so long ago be with you and abide in you at this time and forever more.

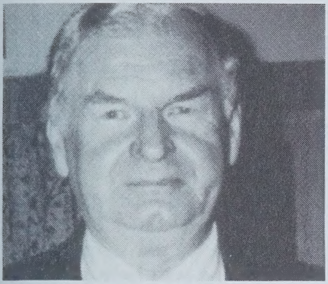
May there be that which will be new and powerful to give you hope as a New Year begins.

All blessings on each of you.

Donald

Dominic Prosser
c/o M.I.B.E. Graduate School
of Nurses
P. O. Box 170
Indore 452001 M.P., India

I am kept very busy at the school. There are 36 students, three male, and amongst the women three Roman Catholic nuns. M.I.B.E. (Mid India Board of Examiners).



- Dominic Prosser

The students are Registered Nurses who do a ten-month course to become nursing teachers or nursing administrators. The courses are taught in English and Hindi.

The students gave me a very warm welcome and hosted a luncheon in my honour. I eat with them and I'm always called "Sir". I have participated in their chapel services and I am very impressed with the Christians. Their faith is very strong and would put many Christians in Canada to shame. It is a very humbling experience.

The school is next door to the Mission Hospital and situated on a very busy thoroughfare. It is hard to sleep well at night and dogs are constantly fighting during the night.

I have attended two churches which are associated with the Church of North India; one is very Anglican and the other one more Presbyterian with services in Hindi. I didn't understand a word but they asked me to do the offering prayer which I did in English. The communion service was done according to the Presbyterian way.

I am kept very busy marking papers and it takes me twice as long because most students are lacking a mastery of the English language.

I was away at the Christian Medical Association of India Sixtieth National Conference of the Nurses League. This was a truly inspiring experience and tribute was paid to the missionaries who first started health care and nursing schools in India.

It was a 12-hour train ride from Indore to Nagpur, needless to say an eye-opening experience.

I have never experienced crowds the way I have in India. There are so many people. We really don't know how well off we are in Canada.

With warmest wishes,
Dominic

Georgine Caldwell
No. 83-1, San-Pu Village
Yuh-Jing 71409
Tainan, Taiwan
October 1997

My first year working at Galilee Prayer Center in Tainan, Taiwan is now over. It has been a year of adjusting back into the Chinese languages and sharing in the work of teaching, praying and taking part in the evangelistic, prayer-centered retreats which are at the heart of the work here.

The Presbytery of Cape Breton ordained me into the ministry in Bethel Presbyterian Church in Sydney, Nova Scotia on January 9, 1997. I arrived in Taiwan on January 15. I led in the celebration of Holy Communion (in Taiwanese) on Good Friday in our Galilee Chapel. It was a joy that I never expected to have. Our God is full of surprises.

I taught in the seminary at Galilee in Yuh Jing for two trimesters. Then the school was moved to Tainan city where we now have the top two floors (15 and 16) in a new building. The curriculum has been changed and the purpose is to train church elders and leaders to take a more active part in their church's work. All our former students are now working in churches or finishing their training in another seminary.

My main work now is resident minister at Galilee. When people in distress come here, I counsel them, pray with them, and for them. We also have people coming for prayer and fasting and I am available if and when they want to consult with me. It is a very stimulating work.

The main construction project here at Galilee is the work on a youth camp and barbecue area. It is on our land in the valley behind our cafeteria. There are now about twenty sites for small groups to cook their food. We also have equipment for them to do exercises and an area where they can play games. They will soon begin the construction of a chapel that can be used by youth groups for their indoor activities. It is a beautiful spot with fruit trees and other kinds of trees.

Tainan winter is like Cape Breton summer so we can expect lots of people to be visiting us over the holidays, especially Chinese New Year.

I hope those who are interested in church renewal and in the power of the Holy Spirit today will come to Taiwan for your vacation. Visit us here at Galilee. Do not come in the summer, it is too hot. Spring and fall are the best seasons to come. If you can't come you can certainly pray for our work here. We will appreciate that very much. I appreciate every letter and picture I get from Canada.

I wish you all a Happy New Year, 1998.

Sincerely yours,

Georgine

Jennifer Melanson
c/o IMU, Apdo. Postal 2638
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

I took Spanish classes for two weeks, and have reached a stage of being able to express and understand relatively easily (although Salvadoran slang complicates my understanding at times).

Most of the month of October I spent getting to know the work of IMU (Women's Institute), the work of the Promotion & Development department, including visits to rural communities.

I am involved in the Health-Environmental Project, which consists of construction of composting toilets, improved stoves, waste management, community kitchens, and demonstration and production vegetable gardens using organic agricultural methods and techniques. Because of IMU's gender focus, the majority of trainings and activities are carried out by, for, and with women in five repopulated communities northwest of San Salvador (the Guazapa region).

My involvement so far has been in three of these communities, planting demonstration vegetable gardens with women and children. These gardens will help to diversify community food production and provide practical education in intensive organic agricultural methods, so that, in 1998, permanent production gardens can supply the community kitchens in each community. I've assisted in the design and planting of the gardens, the buying of materials and promotion within the communities. My time in the office is spent creating educational materials on composting toilets, to realize training on use, function, and maintenance (posters, pamphlets, manuals).

My work is slowly coming together, and being defined. I am thankful for the opportunity to learn about IMU, El Salvador, and myself through this process.

Peace,

Jennifer

Jennifer Menanson is a Develop*ment Studies student who has replaced Colleen Good at IMU, the PWS&D partner in El Salvador. She will be there until summer 1998.*

Hubert & Nan Budding
c/o 50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
November 1997

This spring we retire. Rather than another anecdote, I want to discuss what it really means to do mission. This question can be answered in many different ways.

There are church planters, who in spite of the non-proselytization legislation actively participate in direct evangelism. Another group works conscientiously at their assigned post, but sees the local church as the real reason for being in Nepal.

Another group is fully committed to economic development. Working for and supporting the local church is all right but it should not interfere with real work time. Others, again come here to expose their families to the rigors of third world life.

There are also different points of view of how development should happen. There is first of all the "I know what you need" group. They sometimes promote wholesale adoption of Western cultural, economic and industrial practices. Then there is the school of thought that true development must start with infrastructures such as power stations.

All these ideas and methods are based in good intentions.

What is our view of mission, you may ask. When we saw an announcement in the Presbyterian Record that people with both teaching and industrial experience were wanted in Nepal, I realized that it was talking about my twin qualifications, a significant co-incidence.

At that time we had no view on the nature of mission. We applied without being sure what exactly we were getting ourselves into, with only a vague idea even where Nepal was. The ad suggested some form of technical teaching, which sounded challenging enough for me. At first we did not even know where we would be posted.

We brought warm winterwear and snow boots because someone suggested that it might be Jumla, where it is very cold. Instead we were sent to`tropical Butwal. We did become involved with boys though. Not as a class room teacher but as house parents. I also worked in a design office and Nan was Guest house hostess.

When the house parenting system was discontinued and the people we trained to take over our work in the office and the guesthouse were ready to take over, we found ourselves without a real reason for being here until we discovered the plight of the squatters. That has occupied most of our time and energy.

During working hours I teach a class or two and write syllabi at BTI but the charity work seems to take most of Nan's time. There is a steady stream of needy people on our verandah and although not all their claims are valid they all need to be talked to. Nan has organized a charity committee in the church to take over when we leave and the outlook is that it may catch on. The young people she works with are willing, sensitive and enthusiastic.

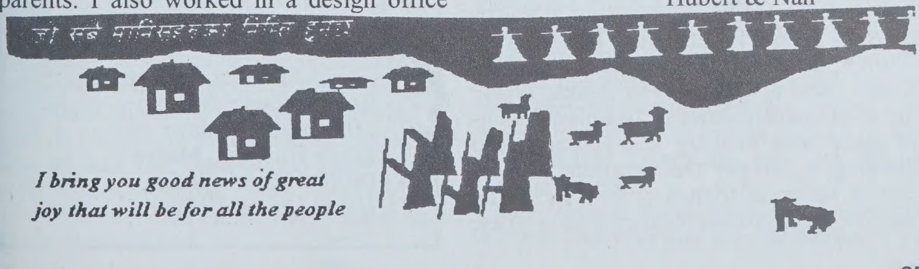
There will be trouble with funding after we leave; the church is poor and does not always have its priorities straight. But God's love will continue to be proclaimed in word and deed; that is what we set out to do.

So what is mission then? Exactly that. Demonstrate and proclaim God's love wherever you are the best you can. You may not be very good at it. You may not be very satisfied with your performance. But that is not the point. We sow, God harvests; we witness, God judges.

Many of you have asked if we could come and speak to you. We will be more than happy. Check with the church office for the schedule.

A special thanks to all of you who, over the years have supported us in so many ways, especially in prayer.

With warm Christian greetings,
Hubert & Nan


जो सबै मानिसहरूका निम्ति हुनेछ

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people

Jack & Beth McIntosh
1-6-7 Shiragane, Kokura
Kita-ku
Kitakyushu-Shi 802-0074
New Year 1988

December has come and gone once again, as always ending on a promising note. Children grow up to enjoy in new ways their part in the Christmas occasions.

Long-distance conversations with family, friends and colleagues are part of letting go, and looking ahead. Jack's birthday, today, (December 31), is one more cause for celebrating and moving on.

A major house-cleaning is a big thing here in preparing for the coming year. We shared it with the people of the Kokura congregation as they ended their 70th year. Together we put away the panels depicting the past of their church and of fellow Koreans-in-Japan. After a thorough wash-and-wipe of the old but homey house-church, the "youngsters" pounded rice into mochi, the rice cakes which give strength for what is ahead. 1998 shall surely be the year of building the new church/center facilities that will be a place for God to do new things.

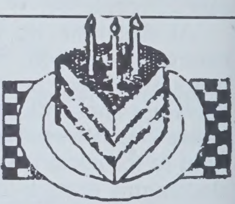
Doing our own year-end thing also has turned us both towards the coming year. Dusting the family pictures adorning our stairwell, we said prayers of thanks and hope for each member: for David, half way through his year-long contract with Canada's General Consulate in Osaka as Commercial Officer; for Janette and Jeff in Vancouver, with three year-old Keilen's world expanding through nursery school experiences, balancing busy lives at home and work, as well as involvement in transitions at West Point Grey Presbyterian Church; for Mira, Hideki and grandson Kento (now in Grade 1) in Osaka, facing the recent uncertainties of Japan's economic scene with industry and courage, also pitching in to get the Diaspora pioneer church set up as friends of Rev. J. S. Suh; for Gwyneth, whose concerns as a nurse for Vancouver's inner city problems keep her occupied in volunteer work as much as in her paid job, and still itching to find her global role through service overseas.

In dismantling our Christmas displays of the cards from so many, we are strengthened by a sense of the bonds of human faith with holy tasks. In adjusting the photo albums to open up space for events to come, we visited again with you as we did in the years gone by. God has been so good to us all that we are curious about what the Plan is for 1998–like the rightful, hearty wondering, "Where is the Lord?", for which Jeremiah rebuked Israel in their not inquiring.

Our regrets for things done (or not) in the past year are real. Fears about what can be done (or not) in the coming year face us, whether together or far apart.

Beth, for her part, has enjoyed the sharing of readings, presentations and programs at an exuberant pace, with a couple of swims a week to ease her back. Whether in a YMCA classroom, with children and women of the church community, or infor-

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS



April
1 - Joel Lessard-Clouston, Japan
9 - Cathy McMullen, India
15 - Sherien Barsoum, Cyprus
20 - Jillian Brown, Malawi
22 - Linda Inglis, Malawi

May
1 - Jake Vanderzweerde, India
5 - Yasmani Samuel Villalonga, Nicaragua
11 - Lillian Sparling, Taiwan
15 - Robert Young, Malawi
19 - Luke Inglis, Malawi
23 - Bruce Hickling, Malawi
26 - Pauline Brown, India
27 - David Onuoha, Nigeria

mal tea times or big parties, enjoyment of deepening roots and widening associations is contagious. Each opportunity to share the spirit and teaching praxis of Jesus makes his presence and power more relevant to each day.

Together, we thank God for the messages of hope and peace, the promises in joy and love, a great way to end one year and begin another. May your cup be full and overflowing with such messages and promises in 1998.

Shalom,
Jack and Beth

Pray for China

Set aside a portion of your day to pray for China. Pray for China's leaders, that many would come to experience the wonderful, liberating forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation that is available through Jesus Christ. Pray for the church leadership all across China. Pray that Christ would continue to be lifted up through the testimonies of Christians all over China, and also pray for unity within the Church, wherever they meet. Pray for the ministries that are focusing on China and are working to meet the needs of prayer, Bibles and training. Pray as well that those Christians who do not have Bibles and are in need of training, will have these needs met.

Second, I would urge you to prayerfully consider what you can sacrificially give to your brothers and sisters in China. Perhaps you could give 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, or even 1000 Bibles as a present in honor of someone you love, and know that these Bibles are being distributed (legally without smuggling) to House Church Christians who desperately need them. Also, you can share the need with your friends or your pastor and encourage them to help us take advantage of this incredible opportunity to get Bibles into the hands of House Church Christians. Even with inflation running as high as 20-30% in some areas of China, the cost of each full, hard-bound Bible is still only $4.00–including paper, binding and distribution. – Ned Graham, President East Gates International.

- Jack and Beth MacIntosh with Marjorie Ross (centre).

East Gates International
P.O. Box 2010, Sumner, Washington 98390-0440
Phone (253) 770-2625; Fax (253) 770-2817; www.egmi.org

or contact

Canadian Bible Society
10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2S4
and in District Offices and Bible Centres across Canada

Thank You to WMS for Gift to Central America:

I have just received your kind gift of CDN$300 for the work and people of Central America and I wanted to send a letter of thanks.

I want to say once again what a difference this gift will make. The people of the dump are surely amongst the poorest of the Region and struggle just to survive. Many children survive only from what they can find in the garbage, what they can beg, or what they receive through this feeding programme. None of us knows what it is like to go to bed hungry day after day. Thank you for caring.

- Rev. Joseph Reed, Area Missionary for Central Amercia and the Caribbean.

NEWS

CANADIAN CHURCHES ORGANIZE TO HELP ICE-STORM VICTIMS

Churches in Canada, like other non-governmental organizations, are rallying in many ways to help people in four Canadian provinces whose homes and livelihoods found themselves in the path of January's devastating ice-storm.

The huge scale of the emergency has called forth a correspondingly huge spectrum of response. Many individual congregations and church-linked voluntary organizations have gone into action with improvised teams of volunteers. Such locally-organized efforts to get help into the hardest-hit areas have been too numerous to track or publicize.

Most Rev. J. Barry Curtis, President, Canadian Council of Churches, said in a pastoral letter sent to the churches, "Our hearts go out to you as you struggle to recover from the flood of ice–beautiful, lethal, ice–which has flash-frozen normal life in your communities.

"Most of us have grown up under the human-made umbrella of hydro-electric power and central heating. From inside that cocoon, we thought of ice as something to play on, something to salt off the sidewalk or slip into a drink. We forgot that our technology is brittle, and that ice can be crushing weight, a cold grave.

"We weren't prepared for what we have now seen on television: ice twisting your roofs, mangling your hydro poles, killing trees by the thousands, ruining barns, shutting down workplaces, and driving people out of their homes into hastily-improvised shelters.

"What did not surprise us was the human warmth we saw on those same television screens. Hydro crews worked to the point of exhaustion, soldiers cheerfully acted as rescue workers, government officials strained to maintain good coordination and to keep up people's hope, and ordinary people from every walk of life offered everything from diapers to firewood.

"We thank all those workers and volunteers for the witness of neighbourly love that you have given in the sight of us all. As for those who needed the help, we respect your courage and your determination to get life thawed out and moving again.

"For you who were in the path of the ice storm, the crisis will last a long time. We want you to know that people in churches across Canada are praying for you as you face the long labour of restoring your communities and livelihoods. As you work at rebuilding may your difficulties be eased by the concern of people, coast to coast, acting in the spirit of that neighbourly love which is the living centre of God's mandate to all of us."

Relief donations are being accepted at The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Please mark cheques "Ice storm relief" and send to: PWS&D, Presbyterian Church in Canada, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON M3C 1J7.

BAPTIST WOMAN SUPERINTENDENT

London, 18 November (ENI)–Baptists in England and Wales have appointed their first-ever woman area superintendent–75 years after the admission of women as pastors.

The appointment of Pat Took as area superintendent for London is also believed to be a world first for Baptists. Maureen White, international secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, told ENI that she did not know of any other women superintendents around the world, although Swedish Baptists had had a woman general secretary. A Baptist Union spokeswoman said area superintendents were "pastors to the pastors" and their families, promoted the union and represented Baptists ecumenically.

Pat Took was named along with two men for three area superintendencies which have fallen vacant. Since 1985 she has been minister at the multiracial and inner city Cann Hall Baptist Church in Leytonstone, London.

The Baptist Union has about 150,000 members. – Cedric Pulford

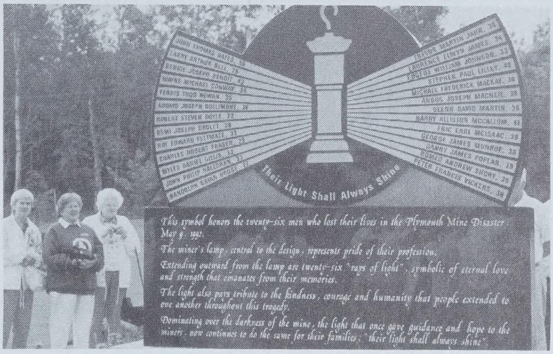
CHOIR TOURS MARITIMES

The Ontario Presbyterian Chorus was well received with standing ovations as choristers took part in 11 concerts. The chorus toured the Maritime provinces from June 18 to July 2, 1997 experiencing the generous hospitality of the people within the various congregations.

The offerings taken at each concert went towards a local community project. For instance in Alberton, PEI, $800 was raised (to which the chorus added $200) for the Caring Cupboard. In Wolfville, NS along with the offering of $900, a cheque for $5000 was presented by Jack Peacock, chorus Treasurer, to Rev. Tim Archibald of King's Church, New Minas, NS. This congregation was established seven years ago and has begun a building fund with plans to begin construction in 1999.

CAPE BRETON GIANT
ANGUS MacASKILL

- Katherine Allen with Cape Breton Giant at Gaelic College.


Their Light Shall Always Shine
STEPHEN PAUL LILLEY, 40
MICHAEL FREDERICK MACKAY, 38
GLENN DAVID MARTIN, 35
ERIC EARL McISAAC, 38
GEORGE JAMES MUNROE, 38
DANNY JAMES POPLAR, 39
ROMEO ANDREW SHORT, 35
PETER FRANCIS VICKERS, 38
This symbol honors the twenty-six men who lost their lives in the Plymouth Mine Disaster, May 9, 1992.
The miner's lamp, central to the design, represents pride of their profession.
Extending outward from the lamp are twenty-six "rays of light", symbolic of eternal love and strength that emanates from their memories.
The light also pays tribute to the kindness, courage and humanity that people extended to one another throughout this tragedy.
Dominating over the darkness of the mine, the light that once gave guidance and hope to the miners, now continues to do the same for their families; "their light shall always shine".

- Memorial listing all those who died in the Westray mine

One of the highlights took place on June 15, after lunch in Pictou, when the chorus stopped at the Log Church in Loch Broom. This replica of the original log church, built in 1973 is a reminder of the formation of Presbyterianism in the region. In 1767 a group of six families immigrated to Pictou on the brig "Betsy". Then in 1773, after a 77-day voyage the "Hector" arrived with the first Scottish settlers (36 families and 30 single men), nearly all Presbyterian. The first minister was the Rev. James Drummond McGregor who arrived as a missionary from Portmore, Scotland in 1786. He brought with him three men who constituted the first Kirk Session.

Michael, a guide at the Log Church, explained the history of the church and read from Psalm 121 followed by the choir singing Psalm 23. It seemed very appropriate to present the Psalms in such a place full of Presbyterian and Scottish history.

Another highlight was a visit to the memorial site of the Westray mine disaster. As the choir stood in front of the memorial, the Rev. Glen Matheson explained the intensity of the rescue operation in which he and his wife (who was with the RCMP) spent five days trying to help rescue people and those waiting for word of a family member who might be trapped below in the mine. He told a story of one of the families who were present at the concert the previous evening whose

- Fun after ceilidh for choristers, left to right Beth Clelland, May Knudson and Harris Steele.

son was lost in the mine disaster. Their other son is deaf and as they watched one of our choir members present the words of some of the music through sign language, they remembered how they had to communicate to him at the time of the mine disaster. We were all so moved by the devastation and personal sacrifices of the people involved with this disaster. The monument lies on the location where 11 bodies still remain buried in the mine shaft.

Some of the tourist attractions included the Magnetic Hill in Moncton, NB; Fredericton Legislative building and Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton; Hopewell Rocks on the Bay of Fundy; Anne of Green Gables; North Rustico beach; West Island Lighthouse on PEI, where some choir members were billeted and listened to ghost stories from the hostess.

In Cape Breton three nights were spent at the Gaelic College which was a wonderful experience. Travelling around the Cabot Trail was exciting as we tried to watch for whales but only saw a few seals. The next day we visited the fort at Louisbourg. The second night at the college the chorus took part in a Ceilidh organized by the Rev. Lloyd Murdock.

As I took the devotions one morning, on the bus, my prayer reflected on some of the beautiful scenery which reminded me of God's creation and the ministry of his word through music:

We give thanks for your beautiful creation,
We give thanks as we provide the ministry of your grace and love through music.
Be with each of us as we continue this journey.

The journey began and ended in the parking lot of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Toronto.

– Katherine Allen

Clay

Clay: yielded
(I believe in the
potter)

Clay: surrendered
(I trust in his hands)

Clay needs
wheel to hold it,
hands to shape it.

Clay gives obedience
to the potter.

Not the potter,
not the wheel,
just compliant
clay.

Joanna M. Weston

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." **2 CORINTHIANS 9:7**

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IN THE SOCIETY

PRESBYTERIAL

On October 18, 1997 Calvin Goforth Church in Saskatoon hosted the **Saskatoon** Presbyterial WMS Fall Rally. The theme for the day was *Sharing God's Banquet* based on Matthew's account of the feeding of the five thousand.

President, Merle McGowan, welcomed everyone, including two guests from Rosetown. The worship and Bible study led by Bernice Shih and members of the Hildur Hermanson, St. Andrew's Church group focused on Matthew 14:13-21. Marina Onclin and women from the Parkview Church Circle introduced the mission study on "Loaves and Fishes".

As a local mission project this year, the group has undertaken to financially assist Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry - Special Projects. The offering was donated to this effort. Hymns, old and new, were sung, led by Gaye Donovan and Joan Sande.

A Service of Closure in recognition of the many years of faithful service given by WMS women in Rosetown, was led by Merle McGowan. Margaret Coulter outlined some of the history of the group:

"The Junior Ladies Aid of the Rosetown Presbyterian Church was formed June 17, 1945 with eight members present. In February, 1968 the group became known as W.A. of Saskatoon WMS.

The Organization assisted with Sunday School, CGIT and Explorers of the church as well as helping financially in the local church and many WMS projects. This organization met the first Tuesday of each month and had Bible Study presented by members at each meeting.

The group members were very active in assisting at local projects when needed – i.e. Meals on Wheels, World Day of Prayer. Funds were raised by monetary donations, suppers, bazaars and catering.

In 1963 there were 25 active members; but at our closing, membership had dropped to four due to age, retirement, ill health and lack of interest with younger members. The Rosetown Presbyterian W.A. disbanded on June 10, 1997."

The Rally closed with worship led by Merle McGowan.

Held as part of **Westminster** Presbyterial annual activities was the Christmas Luncheon which was held at Gordon Church. About 60 ladies attended, and the guest speaker was Nancy Cocks who told us how she came to write her books about Fergie the Frog, the hero of the stories. Each story highlights a problem which may be encountered in dealing with children and how Fergie the Frog managed to cope with it. Nancy also signed each of the books purchased.

Brockville Presbyterial held their Fall Mission Rally in St. Andrew's, Chesterville, Ontario on October 22nd. President Margaret Reynolds presided over the meeting.

Rev. Bert deBruijn led in prayer and did the meditation with a slide presentation. He showed how our spiritual growth was similar to the life of a butterfly. The old is gone, and new life begins as we grow in our spiritual life with Christ. Donna Wilson, Winchester, introduced guest speakers Linda and Bob King from missionary service in India.

Linda told about their lives in Indore, India as Bob showed slides of their town. Linda, an R.N., taught refresher courses for nurses, helped in administration, and teaching new students. She said "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

Indore has a large population, the temperature was hot, and it was very dusty.

Henni Donkersteeg thanked the speakers. Marilyn deBruijn sang a lovely solo. Prayers were given for our missionaries. Rev. Bert deBruijn closed the meeting with the Benediction.

The Fall Rally of **East Toronto** Presbyterial was held at Calvin Church, Toronto, on October 25, 1997. The theme of the Rally was Mission in Service, a call to help people in need taken from the Living Faith: 9.1.3. An enjoyable hymn sing was led by Gladys Anderson and Noreen Marshall.

Greetings were extended by Giollo Kelly, president of East Toronto Presbyterial, and Rev. K. Borden, minister of Calvin. The devotions were led by Helen Tetley of Calvin, and based on Hagar and Sarai's mistreatment of her. Annette MacLean, also of Calvin, was guest soloist. The devotions and solo "Amazing Grace" were very fitting as our speaker was from Armagh.

Margaret Taylor, who is on the board of Armagh, shared with us some of the heartache that wives and children suffer in violent relationships. One little girl, when asked what she liked best about Armagh, replied "not being hit".

Armagh is a mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and was founded as a Christian answer to violence. At the present time there are eight women and nine children living at Armagh.

Rev. K. Borden closed the meeting with the Benediction. The women of Calvin served delicious refreshments.

LOCAL

The WMS Thankoffering service was held at **Knox** Church, **Morrisburg**, Ontario on October 26, 1997. Guest speakers, Linda and Bob King from Picton, Ontario spoke of the year they served as missionaries in Indore, India. President Margaret Reynolds led the worship service and was assisted by other members of the WMS.

Linda King spoke to the children about the importance of spreading the gospel to other people. Bob King spoke to the congregation on how they received a call to go to India as missionaries, and that Linda would teach at the Graduate School of Nursing. They both served as leaders of Bible study and devotions and assisted students and staff in various ways.

A display of artifacts from India was set up for viewing and after a time of fellowship and lunch, Linda showed very interesting and informative slides of the area where they stayed and worked during the past year.

Jean Ferguson celebrated her 100th Birthday last spring. She is a long time, very hard working member of **Ephriam Scott Memorial** WMS, **Montreal**, Quebec.

Left to right in the photo below: Doris McKellar, Dixie McBride and Jean Ferguson.

ANNIVERSARY

The Bessie MacMurchy Group of Knox Church, Listowel celebrated 50 years on May 25, 1997.

The group, sponsored by the Willing Workers Group, organized by Hazel Hamilton, was named after Bessie MacMurchy, a prominent missionary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada who was home on furlough from India at the time. Miss MacMurchy visited the group numerous times over the years.

Membership in 1947 was 45. A high of 53 was reached in the 60s. In the 90s the membership high was 18.

Former members and friends gathered for a worship service of celebration. Included was candlelighting by the first members remembering the work of the group through the years.

Special guest was a dear missionary friend of Bessie MacMurchy, Ida White who led in prayer.

The anniversary message was given by Phyllis Thompson, a former member and very active WMS worker.

The Christian Education Hall, decorated in pink and white with gold accessories was abuzz with reminiscing when the social hour followed. Refreshments were served by the members. The anniversary cake was cut by Hilda Neable, 1947 President (on right in photo), and Shirley Cossit, 1997 President (left). Bessie MacMurchy's photo is displayed beside the cake.

50th
Anniversary
Bessie MacMurchy
1947-1997

The **Mary and Martha WMS** of **Knox** Church, **Stratford,** Ontario celebrated 50 years as a Missionary Group on September 28, 1997 (see photo at bottom of page).

There were 38 past and present members in attendance at the morning Worship Service. A light lunch, Anniversary Cake and fellowship were enjoyed in the Banquet Hall following the Service.

Everyone was welcomed by Mary Scott, 1997 President of the Mary and Martha group. Greetings were given by the minister, Dr. David Thompson, Jean Edmunds, President of the Huron-Perth Presbyterial and Erin Crisfield, Area Educational Consultant in the Hamilton-London Synodical.

Photo: Andrew Turnbull

- Margaret (Peggy Ramsay), centre, cuts cake at her 90th birthday celebration, December 6, 1997 at Brantford Central Church. With her are Anton Rambali and his wife, formerly of British Guyana.

- Lottie Hainey at 1997 Toronto-Kingston Synodical with theme banner she made, which was hung at Westminster, Sault St. Marie.

ARE WE
CHRIST
FOCUSED?
EXIT

- Special service at Knox, Embro, ON commemorating 125th anniversary of George Leslie MacKay's arrival in Taiwan. From left, Stephen Chen, Wilma Welsh, Andy Turnbull, James Sutherland, John Johnston, Paul Kang, Anna MacKay, Paul McLean, Margaret MacKay.

"*I*"-Witness

The "Inner Voice"

If you have heard the "inner voice", is it something you don't care to talk about because you fear the reaction of your confidant? Maybe it was too personal to share but very real to you? Maybe you have never heard it.

In 1940 Eugenia Price was a well known author, speaker and radio personality. She wrote and produced a radio series "Visit with Genie" heard in the United States, and had her own production office. In 1949 she became a Christian, closed her office and became writer-producer of a radio program called "Unshackled". She also wrote a number of books including "The Burden is Light", and "Woman to Woman".

Before her conversion, she lived life to the full but there was something lacking. She found that something in "Someone", her Lord. In her story she told of how early in her new life where she strongly felt the presence of Jesus with her constantly.

On reading this, I remember being very envious that I didn't have that feeling when I became a Christian. Being quite young, I naturally lacked her experiences and wished I could have known her way of life so I could also know the joy of His certain presence.

It was while feeling this frustration that I clearly heard a voice say: "It was then or not at all". The voice was as real as words spoken in everyday life. My mind was put at rest and I was awed by the great goodness of God in saving me and condescending to tell me the importance of His own timing.

Some years later, I read an account of an extremely savage attack on a young child that resulted in her death. The horror I felt turned into indignation, then anger. Why would God allow such a fiendish thing to happen to an innocent child?

As I questioned in my mind, God spoke inwardly, "They did it to My Son." When the shock subsided, I saw that if sin in humankind crucified the Son of God, the child's death and the sorrow it caused the living was the natural result of sin.

Jesus was willing to experience the worst that sin could do when He allowed rebellious people full of hate to kill Him. Because of His love for us, He was willing to suffer death to show the depth and power of sin and the mighty power of love.

By His resurrection and ascension, He proved that life in Him was stronger than sin and death. While we live now in a fallen world, we know the day is coming when He will remove His followers from the presence of sin forever and we will reign with Him.

E. Jean Abrams,
Cobourg, ON

Staff News

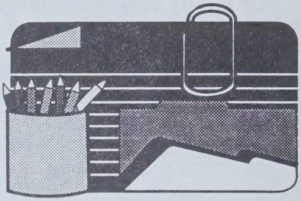
In case any of you are wondering who **Margaret Robertson** is, she is the former Margaret Greig, Program Secretary for the WMS. Margaret was married in London, Ontario on December 13, 1997 to John Robertson. John is a staff person with Financial Services, the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Marg and John live in Newmarket, Ontario.

Love and sympathy are extended to area staff person Rev. **Roy Gellatly**, his wife Beverley and their family. Roy's son, Duncan, passed away in January, 1998 after a long battle with cancer. A memorial service was held January 24 at Rosedale Presbyterian Church, Toronto.

Sympathy is also extended to **Barbara McLean**, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, on the death of her father-in-law, the Very Rev. J. Lewis W. McLean who passed away at Victoria, BC in January in his 93rd year. McLean was a former moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and Minister Emeritus of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria. McLean is lovingly remembered by his three sons and their families: from Waterloo, Ontario Hon. Rev. Walter and Barbara McLean, from Campbell River, BC Blair and June, and from Victoria David and Dawn.

The WMS Book Room has a new staff person, replacing Judy Lee who left in November to take up residence in British Columbia. **Martha Carmichael** joined the staff at the beginning of January after working at the reception desk at 50 Wynford Drive.

Martha says she is happy to join the WMS staff. She brings with her ten years experience in the hospitality industry, mainly dealing with customer service. She enjoys working with people and also has a love of books. Martha says, "I look forward to this chapter of my life. My two children and I are already eagerly test marketing the resources."



Circulation News

Has your group returned the subscription list? There are still approximately 20 outstanding lists as of January 22. Also, a number of subscribers on the 000050 listing (our individual subscription list) are still outstanding. We will be following up on these shortly. Hopefully we will soon hear from these groups.

If your group has disbanded and not sent in the subscription list it is helpful for us to still receive the list in order to make appropriate changes. If you do not belong to a group, you can still subscribe to Glad Tidings. Your name will be added/transferred to our individual listing. It takes approximately two months to process any changes/additions.

We have appreciated the work of the Glad Tidings Secretaries/contact people in their tasks. Sometimes it is not easy to collect the money from everyone and to see that we receive the information by the deadline.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

Daring Hope/Oser L'Espoir
August 26-30, 1998
University of Guelph, Ontario

An ecumenical gathering to mark the close of the Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society. Sponsored by the Canadian Ecumenical Decade Coordinating Group.

To obtain a registration brochure please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:
Registrar, Daring Hope, Ecumenical Decade Coordinating Group, 3250 Bloor St. West,
Etobicoke, On M84 2Y4.

Ewart Graduates Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Ewart's Opening November 13, 1997....

IN REMEMBRANCE

Miss Jean Allan,
Appin, ON

Mary McDougall,
Lillian Pride,
St. Andrew's, Arthur, ON

Mrs. G. Hillman,
Atwood, ON

Mrs. Elsie Stephens,
Mrs. Florence Whates,
(formerly St. Paul's, Kemptville)
St. Andrew's, Barrie, ON

Mrs. Leeta Broome,
St. Andrew's, Beeton, ON

Miss Mavis Hyndman,
Grace, Calgary, AB
(former employee of WMS &
Board of World Mission)

Mary Broomfield,
St. Andrew's, Cobourg, ON

Mrs. Florence Cooper,
Mrs. Georgina Fiegehen,
Mrs. Mabel McQueen,
First, Collingwood, ON

Mrs. Reta Jones,
Elmvale, ON

Mrs. Florence Smith,
Knox, Georgetown, ON

Mrs. Helen MacLennan,
Ashfield, Goderich, ON

Mrs. Dorothy Morris,
St. Andrew's, Kingston, ON

Marguerite Irwin,
Knox, Leamington, ON

Mrs. Ruth McTavish,
Mrs. Jessie Satchell,
Knox, North Easthope, ON

Christine Douglas,
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May/June 1998

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GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

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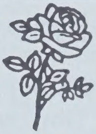
Inside: Celebrating the family of God.

May 1998



Part of the Family of God

I have been privileged to travel many places through my work with the church. In February this year I found myself in Bethlehem at an interfaith meeting. It was a new experience for me to be among Muslims, Christians and Jews who were united in their belief that all peoples everywhere can live in harmony. They wanted their brothers and sisters around the world to understand the tensions with which they live out their lives and to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

The contrasts to our lives in North America were startling. In the land that is sacred to the three monotheistic faiths, roadblocks and security checks are common. Some sail through their days with relative ease while others are frustrated by restrictions and discrimination.

That was evident when I visited projects that our church supports in the Gaza Strip. It was a two and a half hour drive to the border. The taxi driver dropped me off a few feet from the Israeli checkpoint, pointed me in the right direction, and assured me he would be there to meet me in 24 hours.

I walked across a no man's land to the Palestinian checkpoint. There I was met by staff of the Near East Council of Churches. We drove the length of the Gaza while there was still daylight, stopping when we reached the Egyptian border. There I faced another no man's land marked with high barbed wire on both sides.

The lonely figure of a man stood staring across the divide. I could barely see several figures on the Egyptian side. They were shouting to each other. Like many families they were separated by the conflict between Israel and Palestine and unable to be reunited. The next day I visited a refugee camp outside Gaza City where other families live in the most congested area in the world.

I talked with a Muslim family who ran a store in the camp. Their great hope was to one day be able to visit Jerusalem, freely and without restriction. Others yearned to return to their land in Palestine and to be together with family and friends.

I crossed the no man's land 24 hours later. My driver was waiting, but as we pulled away he circled around the parking area, shouting into his car phone and peering anxiously across the border. "Please," he said. "My brother will come. I haven't seen him for months. It will only be a minute." I grew uneasy as the minute turned into a half hour. Suddenly the man honked and shouted. "Over here," he said. A younger man got into the car.

Grinning, the driver introduced us. "My younger brother," he told me proudly. The brother showed him the permit that would allow him to visit for a few days. We drove back to Bethlehem, the men chatting happily.

I thought of my own brothers and of how easy it is for us to visit. There are no outside restrictions placed on our traveling, and we take that for granted. It is not so for others in our world who are separated, often by powers beyond their control.

I rejoiced with these Muslim brothers in their moment of happiness and said a silent prayer for families everywhere. I thanked God that I am part of a larger family, the people of God, who work together faithfully in their corners of the world so that people everywhere can live together in peace and harmony.

Written in Love
June.

The Lesson Learned

**When I was a boy my father said to me,
"Son, what is it you want to be?"
I wasn't clear, I wasn't sure,
What type of job I might secure.**

**Dad waited, with his strong arms crossed
As my words faded; I was lost.
"Son, come on. Do you have a plan?
What do you want, when you're a man?"**

**I thought and wondered what to share,
As dad looked down with his big-dad-stare.
"Dad," I said. "It's clear to me.
I think I know what I want to be."
His arms uncrossed, his frown did ease;
I hoped my words would soon appease.**

**"I think I would, I know I can,
Grow up to be a feeling man.
A man who laughs when he is glad,
Controls himself when he is mad,
And shares with those whom he holds dear,
Not be ashamed to shed a tear.
I'll challenge myself to be all I can;
That's what I want, when I am a man."**

**Then my dad looked away,
Not knowing what to say,
And looking back to me he turned,
"Son, I am the one who's learned.
A man should not be measured by his employ,
Can you forgive me now, my boy?
Son, today you've shown to me,
What type of man I want to be."
"Dad," I smiled. "It's okay."
Our lives were changed that very day.
The lesson learned was not yet done,
Today I learn it from my son.**

"A wise son brings joy to his father..." **Proverbs 10:1**

D. Staley

My Garden - My Mission

A Mother's Mission: to make her home a warm, secure place where family can grow and be happy.

by Margaret F. White

"Hey Mom, what are these new shrubs and vines you've got planted here?" my son, home for the weekend, asked as we sat out front on the porch drinking iced tea. We had put in a new sidewalk and garden area last fall and planted vines to grow around the arbour with two large shrubs on either side of the walkway.

"They're called Euonymus", I answered, "both the vines and the shrubs. The vines will take a while to grow and cover the arbour. You probably know them better as the 'Burning Bush'."

My son, the English Literature major, knows his mother very well. "There's a story behind this, isn't there?"

"Well...yes," I stuttered, "but do you have the time?"

"Tell me...," he grinned.

We all know the story of the burning bush from Exodus, chapter 3, where the Lord comes to Moses about leading the people out of Egypt. He speaks to him from a bush that is burning brightly:

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Exodus 3:2 NRSV

I imagined the flames in the desert to be hot and fierce, waves of fire sucking up the air around.... Yet not one leaf or berry was burning. God was protecting the live plant. God was using the fire to tell Moses his plan.

We all want to make our homes warm, cozy, secure places where family and friends can grow and be happy. The outside world can be brutal sometimes. It can hurt and scar us from the many burns. But with our Lord's protection, the flames will die and the scars will fade. He will protect us just as he protected the leaves and berries of the burning bush.

When I walk out the door of my home, whether going to work or doing errands, the burning bushes symbolize God's care for me. As I walk between the shrubs and under the arbour I feel the cloak of God's protection. The flames of this world can become quite frightening and dangerous, but God is with me.

To me the burning bush also symbolizes God's teachings to spread the gospel, heal the sick, be the Good Samaritan. We cannot stay cocooned in our rich, safe little world. We need to support our missionaries in far off places. I am continually amazed when I read their letters each month. But if I cannot be a missionary in a strange land I can be a good steward at home. In our own way, in our own communities, in our churches, in our schools, in our hospitals, we can do as God commanded. As Garth Brooks puts it, 'Get into the Fire!' We must get into Life!

My burning bushes remind me to participate, to volunteer, to be active, to make a difference! God will protect me from the flames.

Putting down his now empty glass of iced tea, my son stood up to leave. "O.K. I'm inspired. But Mom, what are you going to plant in your garden this summer?"

Senior moments

by Rosemary Doran

My sister and I were talking one day about forgetting things. We remembered how forgetful our mother had been and how certain we were we would never be like that! Then my sister said: "It's not that we forget–it's just that we experience *senior moments*." That made us feel a lot better. I really liked that term–*senior moments.* It got me thinking.

A senior moment is when you turn to introduce your best friend of thirty-five years to another friend and you can't remember her name. Or the name of the other person either.

A senior moment is when you go downstairs to get something and can't remember what it was when you get there. So you go back upstairs to retrace your steps, in the hope that this will trigger your memory. Only it doesn't. And you don't remember what you went downstairs for until you waken at three o'clock in the morning, and by then it's too late.

A senior moment is when you realize that all the doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, fire and police people have clearly just left high school, if that.

A senior moment is when two kids swerve by you on the sidewalk on bikes, shouting "Watch out for that old lady!", and you look round to see about whom they're talking. Only there's nobody there but you.

A senior moment is when the sales clerk automatically gives you a senior's discount, even though you know you don't look a day over 39 (well, maybe 45).

A senior moment is when your grandson (Drew) asks "Grandma, how come you walk like that?" And when you ask what he means, he does a sort of slow, bent-over shuffle. You assume he must be thinking of someone else's Grandma.

A senior moment is when you need mega-magnified glasses and a one thousand watt lightbulb to read the phone book, the menu in a restaurant, or the index in the new Book of Praise!

A senior moment is when you do your Christmas shopping early and put it away safely. When you go to wrap it, you can't remember where it is. Maybe you will find it in time for Easter–if you're lucky.

A senior moment is when your doctor looks at you and says "Well, you know, things don't work as well as they used to when you get older."

A senior moment is when a helpful friend reminds you that God never lays on you more than you can handle and you want to remind God that you're 65 or 73 or 91 (or you feel as if you are) and you can't take this anymore.

But then–

A senior moment is also the moment when your grandchildren, Drew's brother and sister, storm into Burger King, chanting "Grandma, Grandma!", and you enfold them in your arms and your heart, and the whole place erupts in smiles.

A senior moment is when you actually get the bank machine to work for you and you haven't held everybody up while you figured out what the instructions meant.

A senior moment is when you realize you don't really care what you wear as long as it's comfortable.

A senior moment is when the newest little grandchild, Drew's cousin, falls asleep in your arms and you know you are holding both past and future.

A senior moment is when you hear your children say to their children things you said to them and which they swore they'd never say, e.g. "Eat up what's on your plate. There are starving children in (fill in the blank) who'd be glad of it."

A senior moment is when you lunch with a friend who goes as far back as you do and your conversation is full of "Do you remember?"

A senior moment is when you deliberately plan to take advantage of the senior discount days–providing you can remember which store has them on which dates.

A senior moment is being glad to see the grandchildren come–and go again, so that you can savour the peace and quiet.

A senior moment is finally understanding why your parents and grandparents seemed to fall asleep in their armchairs after lunch–and dinner–and, seemingly, at the drop of a hat. They were really meditating.

A senior moment is the ability to tune things out by turning off your hearing aid. Just don't forget to turn it on again.

A senior moment is knowing, like Paul, the secret of contentment–being satisfied with what you have.

A senior moment is thanking God for the gift of a new day and for all the love that will carry you through it, especially God's.

– Rev. Rosemary Doran is past president of the Women's Missionary Society, and minister at Riverside Presbyterian Church, Windsor, Ontario.

Miracle of May

Walking in with dewy feet
the soft warmth month of May
stepped across the crocuses
and gently found her way.

She brought the sun to daffodils
and though her stay was brief,
she placed upon expectant trees
each trembling new-born leaf.

She delivered baby seedlings
out of the swollen earth,
and splashed a million dandelions
over the grassy turf.

Apple blossoms floated down
to grace her lovely dress,
while in her hair, a robin sang
of love and happiness.

Gladys Nolan

Giving Birth to Spiritual Gifts

A woman comes to terms with not having children

by Mary Campbell

You never know when scripture will kick you in the gut. It happened to me one Sunday morning. The scripture reading was Luke, chapter 1. Elizabeth had been barren but God had blessed her with a child. She revealed her feelings about being childless when she said, "...he has shown his favour and taken away my disgrace among the people", verse 25.

I empathized powerfully with her disgrace as my mind flipped back over the years of emotional pain I have endured. Married, yet childless, I was suffering as she had. Consequently, Mothers' Day is one of the worst days of the year for me. I feel like boycotting the church service because I know that the sermon will praise mothers and I will feel left out.

I never had a strong maternal feeling. Furthermore, during my late teens I began to have trouble with my back.

At the age of 20, I went to an orthopaedic specialist who diagnosed scoliosis (curvature of the spine). I spent two weeks in the hospital lying in traction, five weeks at home struggling in a body cast, and a year in torture wearing a back brace. I thought I would be better.

However, when I went to my doctor, he sat me down and seriously warned, "You still have a severe curvature. You must never lift anything over ten pounds or you'll damage your back."

I asked him what would happen if I carried a baby for nine months. "You would need to be hospitalized in your seventh month so that you could stay off your feet and you would require complete bed rest until you had the baby." I also learned that because my husband and I had different RH blood types the baby would need a blood transfusion.

I was stunned. I couldn't stand the thought of lying in a hospital bed for three months until the baby came and I felt nervous about having a baby who would need a blood transfusion. I also felt scared of the pain of childbirth. At that moment I decided not to have children. Fortunately, my husband supported my decision. He taught small children and didn't want to come home to children after working with them all day.

As the years went by, I often had doubts about my decision. Most of the time I felt ashamed for not wanting children. I actually hated who I was. Each time my family and friends had a baby, the shame would increase.

Not long ago I went to a christening for my great nephew. I met a lot of people afterwards. One asked if I had children. When I said no, he replied, "I'm so very sorry." I am sure he really did feel sorry for me, but his response pierced my soul. I have heard similar thoughtless comments over the last 30 years.

When I hear references from the Bible about the blessings of having children, I feel left out and whenever I hear someone quote, "be fruitful and multiply" to justify their reason for having children, I feel condemned by God for not wanting to be fruitful.

When some co-workers find out I don't

have children, they automatically assume I must have an easy life. I often hear, "Oh you don't know how hard it is to raise children. It must be nice to come home after work and have a quiet evening with your husband." I feel angry that they view motherhood as something that separates them from me and makes them feel proud of sacrificing to raise children.

Even though I felt kicked in the gut from the scripture reading that Sunday, later, the minister's sermon was healing. He said that men will never know what it's like to have a child. I thought, "Jesus never had a child", and I felt a new closeness to Him because I knew He understood my dilemma. The minister spoke about giving birth to our gifts from the Holy Spirit. Finally there was a way I could feel I was mothering too.

I know that God has given me gifts. I haven't given physical birth to a child, but as a writer I have given birth to many articles and poems that have been published.

A few months before I heard this sermon, scriptures from the psalmist came to mind. "Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely" (Psalm 139:4). "When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" (Psalm 139: 15).

God knew before I was born that I would be afraid to bear children. I find these passages comforting for my heartache. When I think of how I have given birth to spiritual gifts and remember these scriptures, a tremendous peace comes over me.

Little by little my shame has decreased. There are still times when I feel worthless, but they don't last long.

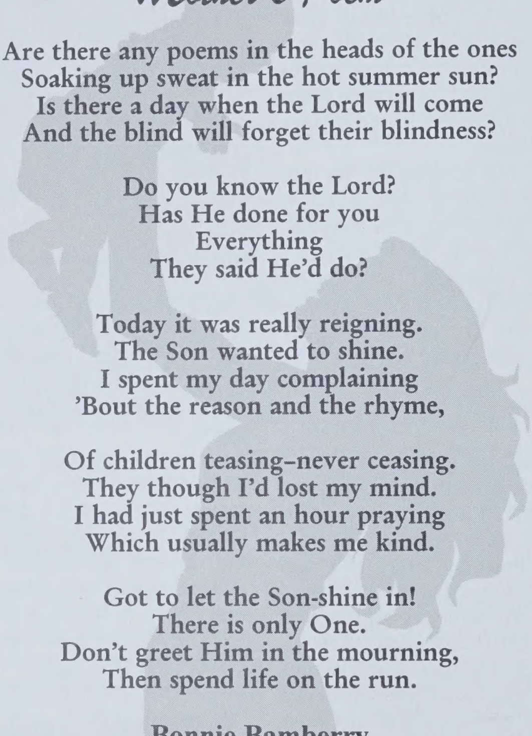
Recently my husband and I spent seven days taking care of his sister's new baby and two small children. I held the newborn in my arms many nights and rocked her to sleep. I kept house and played with the two toddlers.

Once I felt sad when my sister-in-law said she admired her older sister because she had raised four children "I don't know how she did it!" she said. Tears welled up in my eyes and began to fall down my face. My feeling of worthlessness surfaced again.

I turned my face away from her so she couldn't see my tears. I felt I wasn't respected because I don't have children. I wanted to tell my sister-in-law how I felt, but instead I cleared my throat, wiped away the tears and later I was able to praise her, "You're doing a great job. You don't need to admire your sister." The hurt lifted. I felt peaceful again. I remembered how much God loves me the way I am.

> *I know that God has given me gifts. I haven't given physical birth to a child, but as a writer I have given birth to many articles and poems that have been published.*

Mother's Poem



Are there any poems in the heads of the ones
Soaking up sweat in the hot summer sun?
Is there a day when the Lord will come
And the blind will forget their blindness?

Do you know the Lord?
Has He done for you
Everything
They said He'd do?

Today it was really reigning.
The Son wanted to shine.
I spent my day complaining
'Bout the reason and the rhyme,

Of children teasing–never ceasing.
They though I'd lost my mind.
I had just spent an hour praying
Which usually makes me kind.

Got to let the Son-shine in!
There is only One.
Don't greet Him in the mourning,
Then spend life on the run.

Bonnie Bamberry

– This poem appeared in *Tapestry*, the magazine of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Canada Summer '97.

"I"-Witness

The Gift Exchange

The older person, a man of eighty, gazed at the fresh face of his young grandson through pain-filled eyes. As the eleven-year-old took his out-stretched hand the grandfather realized the anticipated joy of this long-awaited meeting. Happiness filled his whole being!

The boy witnessed that surge of life before death and stayed by his grandfather's side off and on through wearying days –giving his silent love to this departing man–the only gift the grandfather wanted, and the only one his soul could keep.

The grandfather gave his grandson his watch–a perfect gift–a reminder of his love and the marking of the present time, our certain God-given gift.

D. Joyce Stow
Southampton, ON

– Based on a true experience of Joyce Stow's grandson, Stefan, at the time of his paternal grandfather's death.

A Tale of Two Women

Mothers working for better living conditions for themselves and their children.

by Mary Lou Johnston

Francoise Florentin lives in a small house with two other families on a dirt street in the village of Le Vieux Bourg d'Aquin, in south east Haiti. Like the other two women, Flenzansia and Saintomene, she has virtually no source of income but somehow manages to keep life and limb together.

The husbands seem to have a number of reasons for being absent–laid off work, sick, looking for work, or just disappeared. The children eat perhaps one meal a day but families can't afford to send them to school, even the state schools. A required uniform is beyond the reach of all the children in their house. But lately even the state schools have not been able to pay their teachers.

This town where Francoise lives is typical of many in Haiti. It has no electricity but two enterprises have generators–the very prosperous funeral home and the cinema.

It is said that the poles for establishing public electric lines are lying somewhere in the region but people are not too hopeful. There is a pipeline under the street which delivers water to standpipes or individual reservoirs (if you could afford to build one) but the water comes from a nearby hill very irregularly and often not at all.

The hillsides, once covered with trees, are now bare because of the need to cut firewood. In fact most of the trees in the

- Francoise making breakfast (left); neighbour's house and children on Rue St. Michele

- Bernadette serving lunch to 85 children in three different groups.

town have branches lopped off to make charcoal. The result of decades of tree cutting is a general drought in the area.

Two doors down, on a building is a sign "Contributions" which is the place where locals pay what we would call a municipal tax. It is an exercise in mental gymnastics to see what services the tax is paying for!

This could be a land flowing with milk and honey with glorious year-round sunshine and a young energetic population. Unfortunately the succession of governments over the last two centuries has not taken the welfare of the ordinary citizen too seriously.

Throwing off the yoke of the French imperial power at such an early year for the Americas (1806) was a hopeful event. But the models for democratic government were not too prevalent at the time and the trappings of power enjoyed by Napoleon and other dictators were more influential.

Successive wars and infighting occupied the leaders of Haiti until this century when there was the inevitable occupation of American forces 'to protect American interests' from 1915 to 1934.

Subsequent political leaders succumbed eventually to the temptations of power supported by a private military force, resulting in a frightened citizenry and millions of dollars leaving the country.

Recent events–the overthrow of the Duvalier government, coup, war, boat people disasters, UN intervention, and elections–have finally produced a popular leader, Aristide. But a government hung up on serious ideological divisions of policy, has meant a breakdown in the development of the infrastructure and all government services.

International aid, waiting to come in, won't, until there is political stability. What all this means is that people living in Aquin or any other part of Haiti are living in deteriorating circumstances when life should be getting better now that peace has been established. At least there are no paramilitary terrorizing the countryside.

Because of all these troubles, over the years, as from other Caribbean countries, there has been emigration of many Haitians to the United States and Canada, particularly to Montreal.

Bernadette Valéry grew up in Le Vieux Bourg d'Aquin but emigrated to Canada in 1972 and has lived in Montreal for 25 years. She is a member of Eglise St.-Luc, our French-speaking Presbyterian church, and has a deep Christian faith. When she returned to her village, she was struck by the number of children who were not attending school. Her heart ached at seeing the living conditions of so many of her townspeople.

She dreamed of starting a school for the children who could not afford to go to the state or private schools because of the fees and other expenses. She also hoped to provide a noon meal, some medical services and some food, grown on the family property.

- Children of Le Vieux Bourg d'Aquin

Because of the many difficulties, the dream has become primarily a noon meal for 65 of the most needy students who attend two local schools. This project is called Organisation Compassion Bon Berger.

But more recently an addition to the noon meal is a small non-paying class of twenty-five pupils who have begun studying together with a teacher in a small out building called Ecole Bon Berger. The children are so excited. Two of them belong to Francoise!

Eglise St.-Luc in Montreal is itself, a mission of our Presbyterian Church in Canada. Organisation Compassion, an offshoot mission from a mission, is a great tribute to the faith and perseverance of Bernadette and her supporters. The church, though small, has had two concerts in aid of the project.

Assistance has also come from PWS&D and the World Day of Prayer. And there are exciting plans for the future involving the mothers of these children, so that they can have a permanent income to support themselves.

Le Vieux Bourg d'Aquin does not have the notorious slum conditions of Cite du Soleil of Port-au Prince, but the basic needs of a people which should be met by a government are not provided in any part of the country. Something is wrong when one Port-au Prince family has five Toyota 4x4s (US$100,000 each) and most families in the country don't have enough to eat.

Since there are few paying jobs, thousands of people make a tiny living selling used clothes, soap and combs by the side of the road. Money for road maintenance has gone elsewhere, leaving roads and streets in unbelievable shape–drivers go on whichever side of the road has no big holes. A four-hour drive is not for the faint of heart!

Christian slogans abound in Haiti, on every commercial enterprise and on every bus or truck. "Jesus est a la Porte!" People wisely put their faith in God rather than in the politicians. But God's sense of justice has been ripped out of a people torn apart and worn down by a series of repressive regimes.

The faith and work of Bernadette and other leaders in that community is slowly but surely awakening the spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance among the women of Aquin so that together they can do something for the welfare of themselves and their children!

– Mary Lou Johnston, elder, Mark John Lefneski and David Lefneski, minister of Eglise St. Luc, visited Aquin in January 1998.

Not My Will But Thine?

Child turns woman–molded, pliant,
gives her seedling self away.
Lets her will submit to others,
trusting judgements not her own,
Noting those with clearer views
telling who she should become.

Choices by her, turning corners,
courses, work, a move, a mate.
Choices for her, children sprouted.
Lets her will submit to others.
Symbiotic nurture giver,
gladly fueling energy.

Baby talk gives way to school,
scouting, playmates, lessons, games,
Chauffeuring, accepting duties
good for community.
Lets her will submit to others–
Lord knows they'll be gone too soon.

Higher costs and kids in college,
filling time with homebound chores
Giving way to "helping out", they called it.
Double work expected, offered,
Latent talents now uncovered.
Lets her will submit to others.

One by one the nest is emptied.
Now the question can arise–
What does she want? Can they swing it?
Is the question premature?
Empty nest still pays for college.
Must her will submit to others?

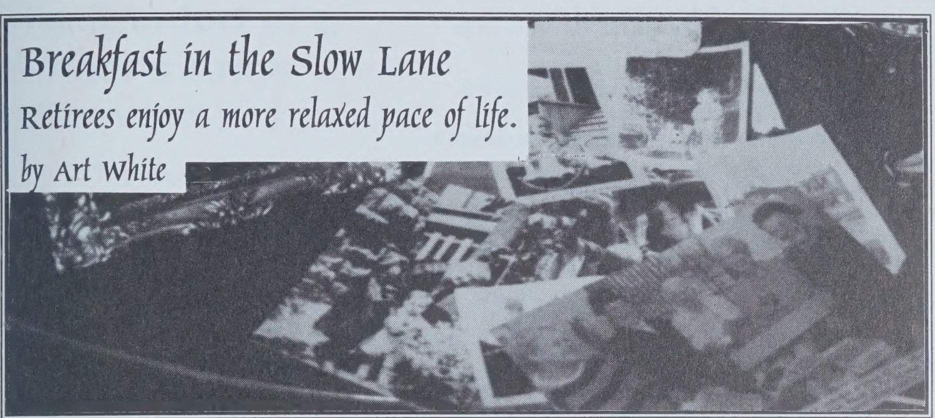
Grasps the dream that glimmers
faintly,
plans and ponders if it matters;
If it does, then rearranges
grooves and ruts well–worn at home.
Takes the risk to challenge self
to find her will, not theirs–her own.

Kaye Johndreau Davis

Breakfast in the Slow Lane

Retirees enjoy a more relaxed pace of life.

by Art White



One of the nice things about being retired is breakfast.

Two of our three grown children don't eat breakfast; their children do: on their own or in day care. "There's no time," they say. Our daughter and son-in-law miss breakfast altogether, starting the day with jogging or aerobics when it's raining, which is more than I do any time of the day.

Our daughter-in-law and her bearded husband sleep through their opportunity for a real breakfast and "catch a coffee and danish" en route to separate, cross-town places of employment, which is also more than I do nowadays....

These harried couples could get up with God's sun the way their children and hardy Canadian parents do, and our parents before us, but, as I say, they're harried and younger, which seems to go with the territory.

Funny, isn't it, how old folks with nothing much to do during the space of a day, are often up-and-ready to do it, while the younger crowd, with their plates piled high, start the day in a rush against the clock and never do catch up. Seems like it should be the other way around.

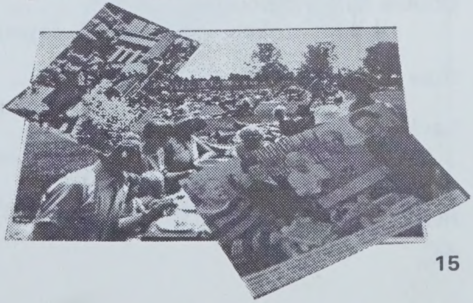
Anyway, breakfast is grand!

I flip on CBC stereo's classical ambiance and do the fixin's, while my wife tends to our pharmacy and deals with the dogs. We have bran: hers taken straight, mine covered with Cheerios; banana "coins" can be an added treat if the price is right. We share OJ from the same jelly glass: I pour-and-drink half, then set the remainder beside her decafe, toast and 1/3 cup of bran 'n bananas. Why only one glass? I do the morning dishes....

Plunked down in an overstuffed chair before a wicker tray with my cereal and real coffee, I convene with my bride and canines by the picture window, overlooking a lake, leisurely thumbing yesterday's Globe or a magazine, most often just watching the squirrels and birds at the feeders or the rain work its "rivulet art" down the thermopane.

Our kids think retirement is pretty dull stuff, especially CBC stereo!. What do they know, eh? They're only thirty-something. It won't be long before they, too, re-discover and savour breakfast; they're already sampling on Sundays; and wonder why their teenagers always eat-on-the-run....

You know, breakfast may just be an art form only seniors and preschoolers know how to do right. Ah, the benefits we of the light-hearted generation(s) enjoy...



Retirement Home with Life Care

They lived together, yet apart,
She on fourth floor, he on second.
Separate in all but heart,
He going to her when she beckoned.

She on fourth floor, he on second
Though sixty years they shared one bed.
He going to her when she beckoned
Love seemed easy, tears were shed.

Though sixty years they shared one bed
Harmony and strife exchanged,
Love seemed easy, tears were shed,
Children thrived and plans arranged.

Harmony and strife exchanged,
Open-ended family.
Children thrived and plans arranged,
Their own two and I made three.

Open-ended family
I from mine to theirs ascended.
Their own two and I made three.
I made mine, too, open-ended.

I from mine to theirs ascended
Maybe more a sideways move.
I made mine, too, open-ended
They had shown me how to love.

Maybe more a sideways move
For my own folks loved me well.
They had shown me how to love
Parents–two sets–parallel.

For my own folks loved me well
Friends they'd been with one another,
Parents–two sets–parallel
Double dad and double mother.

Friends they'd been with one another,
Now my first-known dad is gone.
Double dad and double mother
Lacking balance, one man down.

Now my first known dad is gone,
He going to Her when She beckoned.
Lacking balance, one man down,
She on fourth floor, he on second.

- a pantoum by Kaye Johndreau Davis, sent with love to Dad Herriott for Father's Day, 6-7-90

The Comfort of a Mother's Arms

by Gladys Nolan

The local chain store was giving out free balloons to kids, a promotion for the new shoe department. A long string attached to the balloon had a plastic ring to fit around a small child's wrist so it wouldn't float away.

In the snack bar half a dozen kids were having a field day. Goodies to eat while they tugged at the balloons, or tied them to their seats. One child had asked the clown who handed out the balloons to cut off the wrist band.

"I want to hold it in my hand," she protested when her mother tried to convince her she might lose it. She nodded her head vigorously. "No I won't. I want it off." The clown obliged. She sat contentedly eating and tugging at the string.

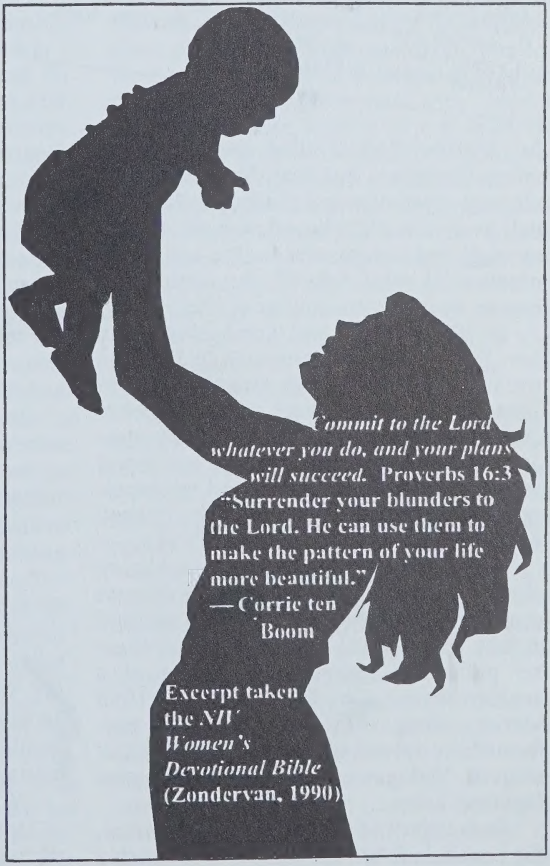
Up and down went the balloon. It was fun, until she momentarily forgot to hold it tightly–and away it went! Floated right up to the high ceiling. The child burst into tears.

"I said you'd lose it," her mother spoke gently. "Never mind, I'll get you another one. Don't cry." The tears stopped as the little girl looked longingly up at the lost balloon.

"Just wait until grandma and I finish lunch." The mother gave her a hug. The child waited patiently, but looked sad and close to tears again. She watched the balloon as it hugged the ceiling. Tears suddenly burst forth into a torrent.

From my place at a nearby table I could feel the comfort of the mother's arms as she gently held the little girl, stroking her head, and patting her back. Not a reproving word of "I told you so." Just pure love as only a mother can give.

Happy Mother's day, lady, whoever you are!



Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3

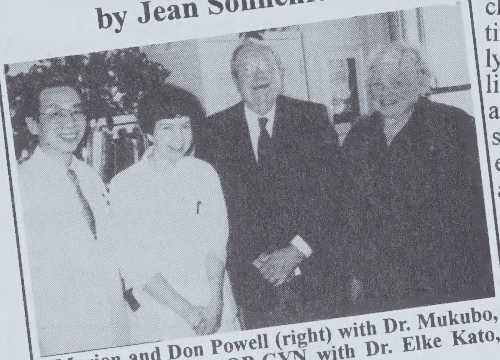
"Surrender your blunders to the Lord. He can use them to make the pattern of your life more beautiful."
—Corrie ten Boom

Excerpt taken the *NIV Women's Devotional Bible* (Zondervan, 1990)

Dr. Marion Powell:

Finding fulfilling roles in the service of God

by Jean Sonnenfeld



- Marion and Don Powell (right) with Dr. Mukubo, present director of OB-GYN with Dr. Elke Kato, doctor on staff, in May 1990

Dr. Marion Powell died suddenly just before Christmas last year. She left behind a legacy of women and children in Japan as well as in Canada who owed their lives to her skill and compassion and to her determination to take risks if she could save lives or improve the quality of life.

In 1952 Marion and her husband, the Rev. Donald Powell, were sent to Japan as missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, appointed to work with the Korean Christian Church in Japan. Marion's passion was medicine. By 1955 she had found her niche as the obstetrician and gynaecologist on the staff of the newly opened Yodogawa Christian Hospital in Osaka.

In 1957 a young woman with a history of miscarriages came to Marion in distress about her latest pregnancy. Marion decided to take the medical risk that would allow her patient to become the mother of a healthy baby. On February 17, 1958 Marion, along with Dr. Ovid Bush, performed the second blood exchange transfusion in Yodogawa Hospital on the new Japanese baby.

In the spirit of Christ's healing mission, the hospital advertised the treatment so that babies' lives could be saved. The Japanese even televised the event. In appreciation the Japanese government awarded Marion one of its most prestigious medals.

Marion's concern for women's and children's health developed early, from the time she was aware of women in her family who had either lost babies or their own lives. Coupled with this vocation was an awakening to the need for Christian missionaries overseas, once World War II had ended and people could travel freely again. Marion heard the call to take her Christian concerns, as expressed in her medicine, to wherever she and Don were sent.

They landed in Japan on August 20, 1952. During World War II the Korean minority in Japan had suffered a great deal. As well, churches had been destroyed. Don and the Korean ministers were kept busy building up churches, opening new ones, and spreading the Gospel. As a minister's wife, Marion accompanied Don to dedications of new churches and to special services.

Since Don and Marion had been appointed to work with the Koreans in Japan, Marion wanted as much as possible to bring her medical skills to sick Koreans. Far too often Koreans suffered discrimination when they approached Japanese clinics and hospitals.

In the meantime, while the Powells were settling in Osaka, Dr. Frank Brown Jr. of the Presbyterian Church (USA) was pursuing his vision of a Christian hospital in a setting where medical services were badly needed. His Christian hospital was to offer "whole person healing" to the spirit as well as to the body. He zeroed in on Awaji, a depressed area of Osaka, that was still being rebuilt after extensive bombing during World War II. Rev. Toshio Kondo, a Japanese minister with business experience would become the hospital's first business manager.

When the first outpatient clinic opened in January 1955, Marion was part of a team of two American doctors and herself. The search was on for Christian Japanese to fill the different positions needed to run a Christian hospital.

On May 8, 1958, when the newly built Yodogawa Christian Hospital was dedicated, 75 outpatients were treated. There were 60 beds to serve a district of 170,000. Forty years later the hospital has grown to 607 beds with many specialized departments...an accredited clinical training hospital and a home care nursing station.

Marion told of an obstetrical patient who was the wife of a local Japanese minister. She had not wanted her baby, because she was afraid there would not be enough money to feed and care for it. Encouraged by the Christian atmosphere of love and concern for her problems, the young woman gave birth to a healthy baby boy. When the new mother held her tiny son in her arms, she knew only love and joy, forgetting the fear and apprehension she had brought with her into the hospital.

Koreans were drawn to Yodogawa Christian Hospital [which] provided a warm Christian welcome for everyone. Marion kept local Korean ministers informed about Korean patients in the hospital. Thus Korean ministers were able to visit them to bring them Christian encouragement in their own language.

The polio vaccine, developed in the early 1950's, was not readily available in Japan for a while. In 1954 Marion attended a conference about polio in Singapore. When she returned to Japan, she arranged for the children of the Korean ministers to be immunized, freeing at least some children in Japan from the fear of paralysis or worse.

As a minister's wife Marion found time and energy to be a gracious and cheerful hostess: whether she entertained a group of Korean young people after they had been out on Christmas eve singing carols, or whether she and Don entertained the Korean ministers and their wives, or entertaining an endless stream of visitors. With her boundless enthusiasm Marion made her home a welcoming and happy place for all.

- Missionaries and their families associated with the Hospital. Taken at the PCUSA Mission Meeting Retreat in March 1958.

Marion, the doctor and hostess, was also a mother who was concerned about how to bring up her children in a foreign country, in a Japanese culture and a Korean Church. Schooling became a problem, since an English-language school was too far away. The children's education was just one more challenge to deal with. Marion became a teacher, finding time to teach the children through correspondence lessons of the Ontario Department of Education.

Communication with supporters back home was important. Marion wrote articles and stories for the Presbyterian Record and Glad Tidings, telling about the work of Don and her own work, and the country that they worked and lived in. [Marion also gave talks about Japan wherever she was invited when home on furlough.]

In 1960 Don fell seriously ill. It was his turn to be admitted to Yodogawa Christian Hospital as a patient, where he remained for seven weeks. The diagnosis was severe hepatitis. But when the hospital reached the end of its ability to treat Don, the family was forced to return to North America suddenly and regretfully. Prolonged hospitalization and ongoing medical care in Detroit and Toronto saved Don's life. But the door to work in Japan was closed.

When the family returned to Canada for good in 1960, Marion's interest in work with teenagers and women became a vocation. Her work was outstanding enough to earn her the Order of Canada and many other awards, along with the name of "mother of birth control." She was a pioneer in her mission to make life better for women of all ages, and to make every child a wanted child.

In May 1990, Yodogawa Christian Hospital invited, along with Don and other missionaries who had worked there to attend the 35th anniversary celebrations of its founding. Yodogawa Hospital had grown from a small clinic in a humble area of post-war Osaka to a prominent institution of high medical technology in an industrial megalopolis. Japanese medicine is now second to none in the world.

There are people of many nationalities and many Christian denominations, working in the hospital, and on the Board and Council. The hospital no longer needs missionaries from North America to provide leadership. Nor does it need financial support from abroad. As of February 1998 there are about 1,000 people on staff, with an average of 1,750 outpatients a day. New buildings are being erected to provide care to more needed areas, the latest being a 100-bed facility for Elder Health Care. The staff are now called to aid other Asian countries, frequently visiting Bangladesh and other countries that need them.

When Dr. Marion Powell joined the staff of Yodogawa Christian Hospital, she was offering her own vision of her Christian mission in Japan, a vision that she carried back with her to her work in Canada.

In November 1997 Don suffered a sudden massive heart attack and died instantly. Marion no longer had the support of his pleasantness, his patience, and his gift of quiet listening. Six weeks later, just before Christmas, Marion, too, died suddenly of a massive heart attack.

They have both left their legacy to all whose lives they touched in Japan and in Canada. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Jean (Brown) Sonnenfeld was a missionary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to the Korean Christian Church in Japan while the Powells were in Japan.

~ Excerpted from an article by Jean Sonnenfeld for The Presbyterian Record.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

Working for relief, development and education.

In many parts of the world access to health care is very limited, particularly in rural communities. PWS&D's overseas development partners are helping communities meet their health care needs in creative and resourceful ways. One way is to help people in rural villages educate themselves and take action on health issues affecting their lives. The village health care workers pictured here are weighing infants to monitor their growth. This helps parents know that their children are properly nourished. They also help mothers care for newborns, give vaccinations and promote good nutrition and sanitation.

PWS&D depends on your donations as it receives no funds from *Presbyterians Sharing...* With matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency of 3:1 for development programs and 4:1 for emergency relief, your donation goes a long way. *For more information or to make a donation contact:*

PWS&D 50 Wynford Drive, North York, Ontario. M3C 1J7.
phone: (416) 441-1111 fax: (416) 441-2825 email: pwsd@web.net

Couples of the Bible

A Puzzle

by Jim Phillips

E	L	I	J	A	H	U	C	S	A
L	L	S	A	I	N	A	N	A	B
I	H	I	E	F	S	S	B	P	R
S	P	T	Z	E	U	E	Q	P	A
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J	O	C	H	O	B	E	D	R	M
X	J	T	N	F	Z	A	T	A	I
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U	C	C	S	T	P	E	R	E	Z
D	A	B	E	L	U	R	X	T	N
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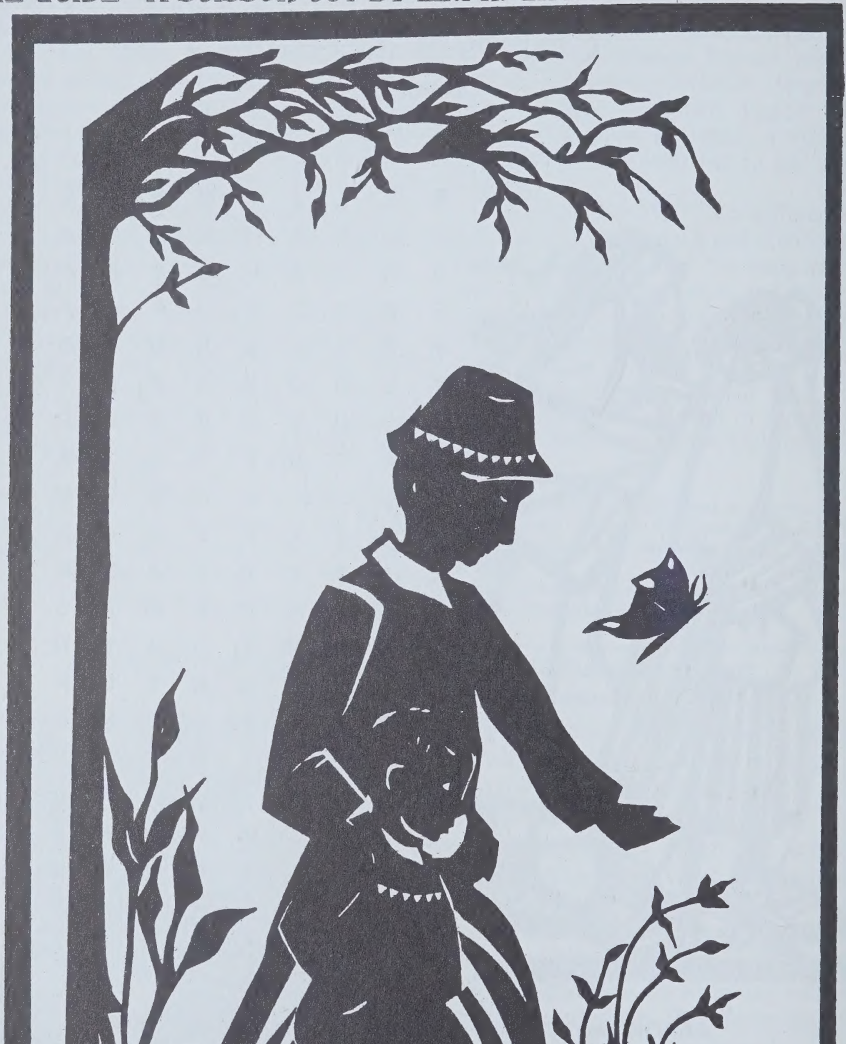
E	V	E	I	R	W	K	A	M	G
N	I	A	C	O	K	M	U	J	L
Y	D	S	L	N	J	W	L	A	D

AARON and MIRIAM
ABRAHAM and SARAH
ADAM and EVE
AMRAM and JOCHOBED
ANANIAS and SAPPHIRA
CAIN and ABEL
DAVID and BATHSHEBA
ELIJAH and ELISHA
ISAAC and REBEKKAH
JACOB and ESAU
JOHN and ELIZABETH
MARY and JOSEPH
MOSES and ZIPPORAH
PEREZ and ZERAH
PETER and PAUL
SAMSON and DELILAH

THE GUIDE - A SCISSOR-CUT BY LINI R. GROL


The Guide.
Lini R. Grol.

"I HAVE GIFTS?"

by Ann Blane,
Regional Staff, Synod/Synodical of Quebec and Eastern Ontario
& Lottie Sutherland,
President of Quebec and Eastern Ontario Synodical

This workshop, based on 1st Corinthians 12, was done at the September 1997 Synodical of Quebec and Eastern Ontario Retreat.

> ***Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.***
> **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**

Part 1: Introduction: ***As a total group***

A) Begin by asking the group what the word 'steward' means to them. You may wish to list their responses on a flip chart. (5 mins)
Note: in this workshop the focus of the word 'steward' is on one's gifts and talents.

B) Have the group discuss the difference between having a 'talent' and a 'gift'. (2 mins)

C) Hand out a sheet of paper to each participant asking them to list ten talents and/or gifts they have. You may wish to have those who know each other well list the gifts and/or talents of their friend. Have the participants share their list with the whole group. (20 mins)

Part 2: 'I Have Gifts':

PURPOSE: To discover the variety of gifts people bring to the church by considering differing abilities. To create the "church" on newsprint.

A) Divide into table groups of 6 to 8 persons.

B) At each table there should be:
a) One copy of 1st Corinthians 12.
b) A basket with pieces of paper folded indicating the type of person which they are to role play. For the basket, have listed on strips of paper: visually impaired person, hearing impaired person, person in a wheel chair, child, teenager, artist, dominant person, mentally challenged person, shy person, energetic person, senior citizen. (Feel free to add other roles.)
c) One sheet of newsprint.
d) Markers and/or crayons.

C) Have someone from the group read 1 Corinthians 12. As a group, using the "role" picked from the basket, and keeping in mind the gifts and talents you have already discussed, create the "church" on newsprint with markers/crayons. (20 mins)

Part 3: Reflections:

A) After everyone has created their church ask each group to share their creation. (20 mins)

Ask: i) What did you feel from the role you played? positive/negative feelings? List.

ii) What comparisons would you make between Paul's church in 1 Corinthians 12 with the church you created as a group?

iii) What is Paul's message to us in relation to this passage and the way we are to work together using the gifts and talents we possess?

iv) How can we be more inclusive with those who present a wide range of talents and gifts, or those who may feel that their gifts and talents are insignificant because of their varying abilities?

Part 4: Summary:

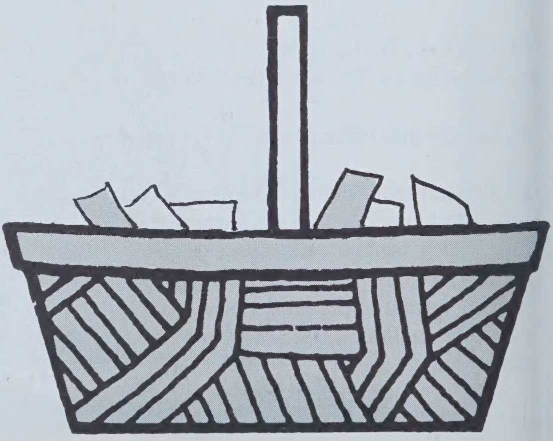
A) Spend a few minutes summarizing Paul's views of what the church in 1 Corinthians 12 should be, and how we today should be responding.

B) Close in prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, you have given many gifts and talents to each of us. Sometimes we recognize these. Sometimes others recognize them in us before we do. We thank you for the opportunity to learn more about ourselves and about each other. Help us to work as one body, together, as Christ taught us, using these gifts and talents for the work of your kingdom on earth.

Amen



A -L- E- R-T A -L- E- R-T A -L- E- R-T

AN ACTIVITY FOR THE LOCAL GROUP, PRESBYTERIAL OR SYNODICAL

Designed by Lottie Sutherland

This activity could be done individually as part of a "Moment for Mission" within the program. Each month have the group choose a country or location of people serving long or short term, who are volunteers or students in partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The focus can be either International Ministries or Canada Ministries.

Purpose: To help groups to remember those working in partnership here in Canada and overseas.

Preparation: Have words ready in conjunction with mission, for example A-L-E-R-T, G-R-A-C-E, S-H-A-R-E... or get small groups to make up some. Have a variety of resources available such as the WMS Annual Report, The Presbyterian Record, Mission Update, Glad Tidings, maps available from Canada Ministries....

Activity: Across the top of a paper list the following six headings:

Name Country Region Occupation Partnership With Home Church Other

Each group should discuss various personnel with the purpose of using a five-letter word that includes the person's name and four of the other categories above. Write the word down the side of the page and see if you can fill in the spaces, i.e.:

A – ***Active in local church***

L – ***Leadership***

E – ***Erhlin Hospital***

R – ***Randall, Joy***

T – ***Taiwan***

This can be quite a challenge and may take several tries before your group is successful. Send any words that work to Margaret Robertson, Program Secretary, WMS and we can share them with others.

Daring Hope/Oser l'espérance
c/o Canadian Council of Churches
3250 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor
Etobicoke, ON M8X 2Y4
Tel. (416) 232-6070 X2028

A diverse team of liturgists, theologians, artists and activists will lead celebrations marking the close of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society from August 26-30 at the University of Guelph, Ontario. Daring Hope/Oser l'espérance is an event for 1000 women and men from across Canada who are committed to women's full participation in church and in society. The event will also draw international guests and provide the opportunity for participants to strategize about future actions in terms of policies and trends especially impacting on women.

Among those 'daring hope' will be
- the Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting, a group of Native, Métis and other women from Saskatchewan who work with women and with young people;
- the St. Columba House Women's Collective of Montreal, which runs a cooperative business and focuses on economic justice issues;
- Created for Life, black mothers and teens in Toronto confronting racist stereotyping;
- Denise Couture, professor of feminist theology and ethics at the University of Montreal, and a member of the collective The Other Word, which has developed new feminist rituals;
- Wenh-In Ng, Emmanuel College, Toronto, an educator and writer committed to reclaiming ethno-cultural identity in the North American context;
- Maritimer Emily Kierstead, music coordinator;
- Keri Wehlander of British Columbia, liturgical coordinator, who is an author, retreat leader and liturgical dancer;
- Regina Coupar of Nova Scotia, artist-in residence;
- Akua Benjamin, of Ryerson University, Toronto;
- Céline Dubé of the Women's Ecumenical Network, Montreal;
- Teresa Burnett, a doctoral student at Toronto School of Theology;
- Heather Eaton, University of Ottawa, whose theological work is grounded in ecological concerns.

The Ecumenical Decade was launched ten years ago by the World Council of Churches as a call to the churches to become more inclusive of women in decision-making and leadership; to listen to women's perspectives on matters of justice, peace and the survival of our planet; and to recognize the insights of women in theology and spirituality.

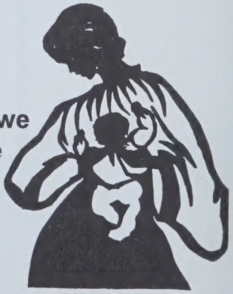
The final day of the event, August 30, is Festival Day featuring arts, food, crafts and story-telling from various cultural communities.

Registration brochures are available from the address above, in English and French.

Parents

Parents
are the gates
through which we
march or dance
into our future
or hide behind
in fear.

Lini R. Grol



-From a scissor-cut by Lini Grol.

IN MEMORIAM

Eileen Ward

Mrs. Eileen Ward was born in Plunkett, Saskatchewan, in October 1909 of parents who had recently immigrated from England. Eileen moved to Saskatoon in 1928, worked at various tasks, then became a medical secretary before marrying George W. Ward in 1934. Their first association with the Presbyterian Church was in 1942 when they began worshipping at Parkview. Mrs. Ward attended the WMS meetings for a few years before becoming a member in 1948.

The following are highlights of Eileen's involvement in the organization: Saskatoon Presbyterial: 1963-65 - Glad Tidings Secretary, 1976-78 - Presbyterial President; Saskatchewan Synodical: 1983-86 - President; Thornton Group of Calvin-Goforth: 1982-87, 1990-1994 President; in 1976 - Life Membership in the WMS was given; in 1984 - a Thanksgiving Worship Eileen wrote was published in the Glad Tidings.

Mrs. Ward taught in the Church School for 21 years and always had a great concern for the spiritual well being of the children and youth. With her interest and dedication in the missions of the church, Eileen had opportunities to travel across the country and meet other women with the same concerns. She found these contacts exciting and rewarding.

From her teens, she felt called to share the good news, and long before the WMS 75th anniversary her personal motto was "Go and Tell". She was active outside the church and devoted some of her time to the Canadian Bible Society, Saskatoon's Writer's Guild, the Council of Women, YMCA and the IODE.

Eileen Ward exemplified a zeal for the mission of the gospel in her home, and in the church, as well as the world community. Eileen died in January 1998.

- Eileen Ward

Mother's Immortality

Words pop up in our
speech,
thoughts calmly expressed,
that suddenly startle us
into the awareness
that these thoughts
are not ours, but hers.

They are the very seeds
of her thoughts,
the thoughts behind
her deeds
that she has sown
ever since
she conceived us.

Lini R. Grol

YOUTH IN MISSION

What is Youth in Mission:

Youth in Mission (YIM) is a programme of the Presbyterian Church in Canada whose purpose is to enrich and enliven our church and contemporary world and to glorify God by providing opportunities for young volunteers to:

- give and receive through ministry
- share in the work of Jesus Christ through action, lifestyle, and conversation
- expand the experience of faith
- recognize and celebrate human worth and dignity

If you are a young person between the ages of 13 and 30, and you want to serve Christ through a mission project, contact YIM and get involved. YIM will try to find a project that suits your ability, interests, and time frame.

Summer Opportunities: Here are a few possibilities:

Ottawa, Ontario ~ This year, the Presbyterian Churches in Ottawa want to reach out to children in their communities. A circuit Vacation Bible School is being planned, which will allow six churches to host a one-week Vacation Bible School. Help these churches reach out to their community with God's love.

London, Ontario ~ Can you help build DaySpring Presbyterian Church this May or June? Volunteers are needed to help with the building, first aid, security, food, etc. Consider the excitement as you watch a new church building appear!

Kamloops, British Columbia ~ Come out to BC to help with an exciting summer camp program with games, music, campfires, etc. This program is still to be confirmed.

YOUTH IN MISSION: #612-320 Croydon Avenue, Ottawa ON K2B 5P3 Telephone/Fax: (613) 596-0634 Email: Smithicks@aol.com

Forward in Faith

At the Annual Council Meeting of the WMS in May, I will be reporting on the finances of the Society. In 1997, the contributions by the membership decreased by 2.4%. On the other hand, the Society realized 12.9% on their investments. This has enabled the Society to keep the estimates for 1999 at about the same level as 1998.

The Society needs to understand that undesignated legacy funds have been used yearly to maintain our current level of funding. As long as these funds are available, they will be used. In fact the Society received new undesignated legacy funds in 1997.

Discussion is taking place for secure long range funding for regional staff. As a Society, the budget is for one year at a time, just the same as your congregation. The Society is very dependent on the members for the contributions each year. It really is faith in action.

In I Timothy 6:18 NIV we are reminded–to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Note: A new Registered Charity Information form is out. Your congregation received information on how to fill out the form. Please consult the treasurer of your congregation for help if it is needed.

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. **1Timothy 6:18**

BOOKS

Order from:
The WMS Book Room
50 Wynford Drive
North York, ON M3C 1J7
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A Matter of the Heart by Lini Richarda Grol. Published by Essence Publishing. Price $13.95.

This lovely book was a pleasure to read. I think it would be especially suited for children. It is very easy reading and each story is short.

Lini Grol is an artist. She does exquisite illustrations by a technique which she first learned in her native Holland, called scissor-cutting. These are silhouette designs in black and white.

Many of the stories are about Lini's experiences as a registered nurse on a pediatric ward. The author has a special gift of making you feel as though you are there.

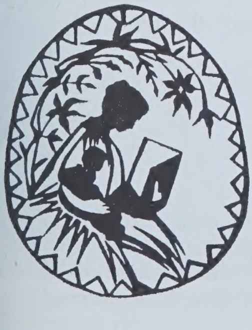
There are also a few poems. Most of the poetry is symbolic and may not be suitable for a child. However, the poems are well written and very meaningful.

My favourite story is "The Star of the Children's Ward". Lini Grol talks about a little girl called Annie who won the hearts of the nurses. She had serious defects and several operations, but in spite of all she was able to sing and be cheerful. Annie affected one doctor who could not understand how someone like her had to live with so much pain.

He dreaded having to take out Annie's stitches because he knew it was going to be very painful. When the doctor was taking out the stitches, Annie sang her favourite song, 'Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam.' To the doctor's surprise, Annie did not feel the pain. Even though the doctor is not a believer, he was deeply affected by her and ran out of the room overtaken with strong emotions.

This book will touch your heart and mind.

Mary Campbell



-From a scissor-cut by Lini Grol.

No End of Grief; Indian Residential Schools in Canada by Agnes Grant. Pemmican Publications, Inc. Winnipeg, MB 1996. Price $22.95

This book chronicles the history of pain and abuse which characterized the residential school system for many Indigenous Peoples living in Canada. The reason we must hear the story lies in the understanding that as long as we deny our past, the longer we will go unhealed.

Agnes Grant has carefully crafted the story of the residential schools so as to give us the history and memories without taking the pain beyond our own tolerance. This book eases us past our denial as a church. It helps us confront this dark period in the Canadian Church experience.

As we read No End of Grief we are brought into an encounter with our own ignorance, and with our common humanity which we share with the victims of a government initiated program the pain of realizing that the people intended for assimilation were as worthy of culture, religion, and language as we are ourselves. In what measure the schools produced worthy or harmful results the reader can determine by entering into the world of the indigenous survivors. Our own healing may be a by-product.

Brenda Patterson

RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS ISSUE

Grandma, Grandpa and Me: Stuff Kids Tell Us. Compiled by Stuart Hample & Eric Marshall. Workman. C0195 hardcover $11.95

Laura, 8, asks, "I wonder what grandparents do when your (sic) not there. Or when they're not here. I bet not very much because they're always waiting to see you whenever you want". This delightful little book celebrates the wonderful relationships possible between child and grandparent with sometimes funny, often touching observations through the eyes of children. "My daddy says his father would spank him when he was little. Once I asked my grandfather if he use (sic) to spank my daddy and he said, "Not enough". Martha, 10.

Really important stuff my kids have taught me by Cynthia Copeland Lewis. Thomas Allen & Son G5469 $9.95

Imagine the world of wisdom from a child's life that we could apply to our own! Things like, "Sometimes you need a little push to go down the big slide" and "It's not really giving if you give away the animal crackers with the missing heads and feet", will warm your heart and mind. When you are facing a bleak day, remember, "If there aren't any shadows, there isn't enough light". Great gift for big kids.

Stuff Matters for Single Parents by Patricia Lorenz. Charis Publishing. G3579 $16.50

Stories of inspiration and laughter come from this mother of three children who thought she had to do it on her own, but found that she had God's help all the way. Lorenz is honest about the fact that her experiences weren't all hallelujahs. It will bring comfort to any single parent struggling to make ends meet and keep looking up.

Miss Fannie's Hat Written by Jan Karon. Illustrated by Toni Goffe. Augsburg hardcover. C0131 $24.75

Miss Fannie is a beloved member of her church family and is known for her amazing, marvellous hats. When the church needs money for repairs, Miss Fannie offers one of her splendid hats to be auctioned. This story is a lovely illustration of what each person has to offer to the family of God. Children will be delighted with the reusable stickers and storyboard that comes with the book.

A Mother's Touch: The Difference A Mom Makes. Published by Zondervan in cooperation with MOPS International (Mothers of Preschoolers). $49.95

This coffee table book conveys the heart and soul of women today as they share their experiences and memories concerning motherhood. Emphasizes Christian values and contains appropriate bible verses.

Dear Friends

Sean and Lezlie Allison
SIL
BP 1299
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Christmas, 1997

Eighteen of us were crammed into a well used mini-van called a 'bush taxi', heading to the coast for a week of camping with our Africa Orientation Course group (19 adults and 22 kids). With Nathanael asleep in my arms, I sat there wondering what Sean and I were taking our kids into.

Suddenly, there was a bump under the tires, and we looked outside to see a black cobra slithering out from underneath the taxi. He stopped, flared up at us, and then headed off into the tall grass. The driver turned off the engine, jumped out of the van, found a big rock, and started running after the snake–dinner! Sean stirred next to me and was getting ready to jump out the window and join the hunt when I told him how much I needed to have him alive in this adventure we've only just begun in Cameroon. Our driver eventually returned with stories of 'the one that got away'.

– The Allison family

That week of camping was s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g for us. The purpose of the time was to teach us about rural living in Cameroon–'roughing-it', with no running water or electricity. I felt as if we were on Gilligan's Island as we made outhouses and bucket shower stalls with palm leaves and bamboo stalks for walls. It was there at the coast that we faced the chicken (or it faced us). Not wanting Josiah to see, I 'volunteered' to watch him while Sean butchered, plucked, and prepared the chicken for dinner over an open fire. When supper time rolled around, Sean and I didn't have much of an appetite for the poor bird.

We are learning lots of practical tips in this course that will help us with everyday life in Cameroon like filtering water, preserving food without a fridge, pest control, market shopping, disease prevention and important cultural cues. For example, if I were to sit with my legs crossed in a group of Cameroonians, I would be telling them that I thought I was the most important person in the room.

We are also getting some good advice from Cameroonian pastors. Their focus has been in two areas: preparing the way in prayer and demonstrating that the power of our God is greater than the power of evil spirits. Josiah and Nathanael are fitting right in to the way of life here. Josiah has just turned two and has made lots of new friends. His language ability has skyrocketed since arriving. Each morning he joyfully announces, 'school time!'. We take him to his little nursery school, and he says, 'Bye bye Dada!' or 'Go outside Mama!'. For the first time he is bringing home 'artwork' to help decorate our walls. While Mom and Dad are learning about rabies, malaria and AIDS during morning classes, Nathanael rolls around on the floor with his little toys, smiling and cooing up at us. He's growing strong and staying healthy on Mama's milk.

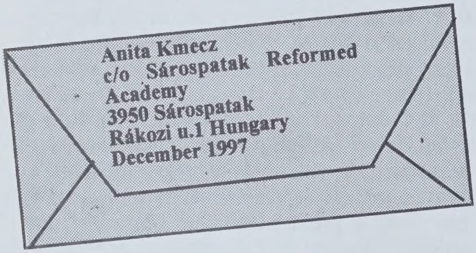
By the time you get this, we will have

finished our orientation course which is climaxed with three weeks of living with an African family in a small village. Then we'll be getting ready for our first Christmas in Africa. During the first months of next year we will be visiting different language groups in Cameroon and seeking the Lord's direction for a group to work with in a Bible translation project. In addition, we will be purchasing a vehicle and the various supplies that will be needed in the village, as well as renting or building a home there. Almost half of the funds necessary for these expenses have already been given or pledged.

We appreciate the encouragement of all in your friendship, interest, prayers and financial gifts. May God bless and refresh you in the coming new year.

Sean and Lezlie

– Sean and Lezlie Allison are now in Cameroon with the Wycliffe Bible Translators, with $5,000 supplied by International Ministries. Sean is an Associate Missionary.



Anita Kmecz
c/o Sárospatak Reformed
Academy
3950 Sárospatak
Rákozi u.1 Hungary
December 1997

As I wrote to you at the end of the summer, Terjék Anita, a student from the Sárospatak Reformed Academy is studying in Toronto. I have heard that she is doing well, and many of you have been very kind and helpful to her.

There are also five Hungarian speaking students (from Hungary, the Ukraine, and Transylvania) studying in the United States. This is a wonderful opportunity that the students have been blessed with. May their English improve and may they experience the worldwide Christian community!

This is my second year teaching at the Sárospatak Reformed Academy. I teach mathematics in the dual language program. This year I have fewer classes, but I am teaching more hours. I am really enjoying it.

It is so nice to already be familiar with the system, the course material, and especially the students. I feel I am much better able to teach them and rear them (that is a part of teaching also, I believe). I know how the students think and where they need help, and they also feel more comfortable with me. Furthermore, it is so nice to review something and find that they actually remember what you taught them the previous year!

Recently, I have begun a 'Problem of the Week' in my classes. It gives the kids a chance to try a math problem that is a little bit different and a little bit more challenging, all in a non-threatening environment.

The schools in Hungary are undergoing a dramatic change in curriculum. The proposed changes would give the students choice in their subjects of study. Most of the teachers are opposed to the changes because they feel that the level of education will decrease, and because they will not be given any training to deal with their new requirements. There is tension because of this. Please pray for God-given direction for Hungary.

Apart from teaching, the American teachers and I have begun Bible studies and an English Club. Marie and myself lead the 'lower level English' Bible studies, while Sarah and Lois lead the 'more advanced English' Bible studies. Most of the students in Sarah and Lois' study are from last year, but those in Marie's and my study are new. They are really sweet girls, and we love them. One of the girls brings her guitar which [is a real bonus]. Marie is presently leading our study about "Who Jesus is'.

The English Club was begun first with a desire to give the students a chance to improve their conversational English, and secondly to simply get to know our students better, in a less organized fashion. Marie began the club. We just get together with students and talk. We have done things such as sharing pictures from home and talking about our families, to playing a game about famous people around the world. Just this past week, we had a new batch of kids come. May I ask for your prayers that through this club we may help the students with their English, and also be good Christian role models in the process.

At Christmas we remember the wonderful gift that God gave us: eternal life through his son Jesus Christ. Because of this, I was inspired to want to give back to the Sárospatak community. Upon talking to the town's minister, three projects became available: visiting the elderly in Sárospatak, delivering pastries to the elderly after the church's Christmas dinner, and singing at the Old Folks Home (as last year). The plan was to involve the students also. They would sing with the elderly, read to them the Christmas story from the Bible, and simply talk with them. The response has been great! ...It is more blessed to give than to receive, and we want the kids to experience this!

Outside of school, the American teachers and myself continue to have our Sunday afternoon church services in English–via cassette. A girl by the name of Csilla, also attends these services. She is a Hungarian, but lived in the US for five years, where she became a Christian. God has brought her back and has begun to use her in a ministry here. It is wonderful to see!

At the beginning of the year I became acquainted with a Hungarian college student named Sarolta. She wanted a friend and someone to simply talk with in English. We get together almost every week. Furthermore, Orsi and Dani, a mother and son, continue to visit Lois and me weekly, simply to talk. Please pray that the Lord's love will shine through in our friendships.

I would like to thank those of you who support me financially, through letters, or through prayers. They all mean so much.

In Christ,

Anita

The Barsoum Family
P. O. Box 6760, CY-1647
Nicosia, Cyprus
January 1998

We are quite busy in our corner of the earth as God continues to lead us every day in this precious time of our lives on this island. Sherien is working hard finishing high school and making extraordinary progress. She has sent in her application for a number of universities in Ontario. Philip is in the second year of high school (grade 10), and has scored high in the first quarter of the year. Christopher is now in grade three, and is having fun learning soccer in lieu of the Canadian ice hockey. We praise God for the adjustment they have made, yet there is much need for your prayers in the area of Christian friends.

Mona provides part time voluntary help in the SAT-7 audience relations department. She recently started a weekly meeting for the youth of both the Evangelical and Anglican churches. This is much needed among families with teenagers, including ours. Please pray for wisdom and resources needed for this ministry.

Makram is busy at the office and in the field as SAT-7 has increased its broadcast hours. A total of 7½ hours per week started from 1 November 1997, using two satellites. The normal Friday broadcasts are now complemented by a 2½ hour transmission on Sundays.

Please continue to pray for the extension of the current contact of PanAmSat which has a very strategic coverage for the Arabic peninsula. Over the last 18 months and since the launch of SAT-7, over 3,000 mostly very positive responses have been received from viewers. However, the one complaint we still get from everyone is that we do not yet broadcast a daily service! It is hard to estimate how many millions are tuning in every week. Pray for wisdom for the two small teams that answer the telephone calls received in Nicosia and Paris from all countries in the Middle East.

A major milestone has been reached as SAT-7 opens its office in Cairo (03 December, 1997). This will provide a place to facilitate program productions, follow-up, and fundraising. Praise God for Fouad Youssef and Mounir Faragalla who are pioneering in this effort with Makram. Pray for finding the right staff, equipment, funds, and protection in travel. Our two years contract with SAT-7 expires summer 1998. As we consider the future, we trust God will continue unfolding His plans in our lives and in this precious media tool of His, called SAT-7. May the Lord Himself receive the praise for His faithfulness to all of us.

In His Service,
Makram, Mona, Sherien, Philip and Christopher

Richard and Ling Schwarz
c/o United Mission to Nepal
Box 126
Kathmandu, Nepal
October 1997

As I write the end of monsoon season is at last in sight. Three months of rain, mud and heat and humidity are enough for me. Yet the whole existence of the country depends upon these rains, without which the all-important rice crop could not grow. Without these often irksome rains this would be an even more weak and struggling country. Reflecting on this I see that in our lives as well unpleasant or irksome things happen, seemingly at whim. The Bible calls these trials. If we keep our hearts open to Kingdom priorities we may be able to see the good in these trials, how they can mature and refine us as we lean on God through them. We continue to have our share of good times, with the odd trial thrown in to keep us humble, thinking and praying.

We continue to be encouraged by the spiritual growth and maturity of the youth in our congregation. We recently sent off one of them to India for a three year course in both Bible and carpentry. The idea is that graduates will be able to support themselves as they minister to their local congregations. This is an encouraging concept as it will help to combat the trend here of men desiring to enter “full-time ministry”. In a country where people can hardly feed themselves, supporting full-time church workers is a real struggle. Overseas organizations fill the gap by paying their salaries, yet this often produces more problems than it solves. Dependency, greed and foreignness can all become issues.

I am having more opportunities to preach the word in various locales these days–pray that this would bear fruit and that those hearing would understand and apply what they hear. Ling is also having opportunities to share at didi-bahini (women’s) meetings, and continues taking turns in Sunday School. Please pray for our elders as they continue to struggle with disunity. Interestingly the elder that left our fellowship last year has started a new and growing fellowship at which I was privileged to speak last week. I wonder if what appears as a church split to us is to God a church plant?

Communicating the gospel in a different culture with a different world view can often be a complex experience. As Christianity is a new phenomenon here, words and concepts are imbued with Hindu meanings. For instance the Biblical word for God is the word for the penultimate Hindu god. Interestingly he can be thought of as three different gods all rolled into one. Thus to say that our God is three-in-one is neither new nor revelatory to a Hindu unless one takes time to explain the difference. As well, offering a Hindu new life would get a rather lukewarm response–their whole purpose is to escape from any more new lives. Salvation is translated mukhti, which can also mean freedom from the life cycle. One can see the confusion that could arise from offering freedom and new life at once.

Ling continues to enjoy her one day a

week at the hospital outpatients' department. My replacement at the leprosy hospital has arrived and I will spend the next eight months training him to take over. He is a talented and dedicated doctor. At Patan Hospital our cleft lip surgeon is leaving shortly and I did my first cleft lip operation two days ago–on a 40 year-old woman. Otherwise I continue to teach residents and do heaps of surgery as our department drifts in chaos.

Mitra, the women's co-op Ling helped start, is doing very well, keeping four women employed half-time. As such our church charity fund hasn't been used for six months! The co-op has already paid off its start-up loan and now they have to figure out what to do with the profits. [Ling] is also working on making it more independent, especially the bookkeeping.

Jon plays with the neighbour kids quite a bit now which gives us an opportunity to interact with them and their parents as well. He actually enjoys Sunday School now–thanks for your prayers. At the moment both boys are in different home-run playgroups. Daniel is a very lovable but stubborn guy, rather slow to get moving but hard to stop. He is starting to talk now. Both are good swimmers.

Of interest is that the bull I had an encounter with three months ago killed a man in front of our house a month later. We give it a wide berth these days. Last night four men were stabbed with khukuris (daggers) in front of our house. Quite a neighbourhood.

Please pray with us especially for things mentioned above. Many thanks to all of you who have written us–we love to hear from you. Thank you as well to all of you who pray for us and who support us financially. We wouldn't be here without you. God works wonderful things in our lives every day. We often don't recognize His handiwork at the time and only later can see and appreciate His care for us.

In His grace,
Richard and Ling

Lillian Sparling
c/o Presbyterian Bible College
No. 56 Kao Feng Road, Box 7
Hsinchu 30035, Taiwan
October 1997

It's hard to believe that I have been here for two months already. Hsinchu is known as the windy city. Today is windy and cold for here–maybe in the low 70s. October has been a busy month. The first weekend all the Canadian missionaries went to Jack and Betty Geddes' place in Taipei for Thanksgiving dinner. I met Jack and Betty for the first time as well as Joy Randall and Georgina Caldwell. There were about twelve of us altogether. Betty cooked a turkey and we had all the traditional food including pumpkin pie with whipped cream. The second weekend in October I spent with Joy Randall. She took me on a tour of Chunghua Hospital. This weekend I also travelled on the train for the first time by myself. This was quite an experience. This was the 10/10 holiday weekend and there seemed to be thousands of people travelling. Joy helped me get on the right train going north. The rest was easy–I just followed the signs (fortunately written in English in the larger stations).

Last weekend, I was invited to a traditional Taiwanese wedding in Taichung–this was quite an experience. On the actual wedding day, the groom's family gives a banquet and on the second day the bride's family gives another feast to celebrate her "homecoming". The guests were seated at round tables. We all had a small bowl and plate and chop sticks. They served over twelve courses, mostly fish–lobster, crab, clams, shrimp, etc. There were about five different kinds of soup made from pork, chicken and fruit.

The plates of food just kept coming–one at a time–everyone shared a common dish at the centre of the table. There was no rice or noodles served. They served what they called hamburgers–a white doughy bun filled with pork and sweet pickles. They told me that it is the Taiwanese way to eat at round tables and to take from a common dish at the centre of the table. This promotes good conversation and fellowship. After the meal, everyone just got up and left. There were no speeches or ceremonies.

Yesterday, I was invited to a student's house for a Hakka meal–again we ate mostly fish. There was a liver dish and a soup made from duck. I have some problems with chop sticks. Long noodles seem to slither through and I can never seem to pick up enough rice. I usually watch other people and try to eat the way they do. People are kind and offer me a spoon if they see I am having problems.

Yesterday, there was a flea market on the college grounds. I thought of our garage sales back home. They set up a canopy and sold food–literally everything from soup to nuts–and all kinds of goods just like at home. Most of the stuff looked new to me. It was organized by a nearby church to raise money for a new building. Somewhere they had picked up Halloween and St. Patrick's day pins. This amused me–they seemed to sell fast. What do the Taiwanese know about Saint Patrick's Day?

The Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu is small. There are fewer than one hundred students with about 26 students in the English Department. As well as English there are Music, Church Work and early childhood education departments. This term I teach a junior conversation class–faith–with nine students, a Senior Business class with four students, and a listening lab with four students. As well, I have about eight sessions a week with all of the English students in what is called free talk. Most of the students have had some English in the early years of school but when they see a foreigner, they are afraid to speak. They lack the fluency and the vocabulary skills to carry on a conversation. I enjoy the free talk sessions most of all. The students come to my apartment so they can relax and just visit and not think of formal English classes. Many of them can now initiate conversation and it's not just me talking so I think my method is working.

On the campus of the school there is a daycare centre, a Lay Training Centre and a swimming pool. These extra activities provide income for the college. There are not enough students to keep the college going. The teaching staff takes turns preaching at the morning worship. My turn will come in November. As part of their training, the students do church work or community service every weekend. In September, the students and teachers go to various congregations to tell them about the college and to try to raise funds. There is a number of aboriginal students in this college. They have formed a choir and they sing at the chapel services. Aboriginal people sing in beautiful harmony.

On October 9-10 the four colleges in Taiwan met together for a two-day retreat in Tainan. This was very interesting for me. It showed me the vitality of the future church in Taiwan–I think it has a very promising future.

Everyone here has been very kind and supportive. I am always receiving gifts of fruit or cakes. Teachers and students drive me places I want to go and I am learning fast the joys of walking and exploring.

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

June
10 - Joy Randall, Taiwan
15 - Wendy Lessard-Clouston, Japan
20 - Clarence McMullen, India
22 - Rebecca Leona Onuoha, Nigeria
22 - Makram Barsoum, Cyprus
24 - Mark Young, Malawi
25 - Christopher Jorna, Guyana
26 - Miriam Barrie, Malawi

July
31 - Jonathan Schwarz, Nepal

What at first seemed chaos is slowly showing promise of order and harmony. Just don't step out in the traffic at the wrong time! Kao-feng Road is very narrow and there are no sidewalks. It's every car, motorcycle, person for himself and the devil take the hindmost!

I have started Mandarin lessons. It seems that every foreigner beginning Mandarin has a hilarious story to tell. Every sound has five tones. If you happen to use the right word but the wrong tone you could be in serious trouble.

On a personal note–I am very happy to be here. The students have become my friends. We can laugh and enjoy a good joke and can talk about problems on a one-to-one basis. Recently a young pop singer was injured in a car accident. Last Friday was a critical day for him. A teacher and 12 students went up to Taipei to Mackay Hospital to pray for him. God honoured their faith because the reports today indicate that there has been an improvement in his condition. We need to give God praise for all of his goodness. God has certainly blessed me. He is always faithful!

Lillian

NEWS FROM THE DUFFS

We completed our assignments on the staff of International Ministries at the end of October, 1997. Now we are embarking on another adventure in Newfoundland. The minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in St. John's retires after a 25-year ministry at the end of this year, and the congregation has asked John to be their interim minister for one year.

So we packed clothes, and books, canoe, paddles, skis, (and as much other stuff as we dared!), in and onto our car and the tent trailer that tagged along behind, and journeyed 2700 km to the most easterly city in North America, in time to set foot on the island of Newfoundland December 1st. We have been wonderfully impressed with the friendliness of Newfoundland people. The scenery is spectacular and there are many places on the island that we want to visit in the time that we are here. People came great distances last year to remember 500 years since John Cabot reached Newfoundland from England. This next summer we would love to welcome many of you to Newfoundland to enjoy this beautiful province with us!

Our address is:
John and Viola Duff
c/o St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
76 Queen's Road at Long's Hill
P. O. Box 6206
St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 6J9

Partnership in Mission

– Dr. Marjorie Ross, International Ministries, received a letter from C. S. Yang, General Secretary of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan which included the following paragraph:

"We have heard that many people in Canada are suffering from the effects of a terrible ice storm that occurred about the beginning of the year. On behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, I am pleased to send the enclosed cheque for US$7,700. Please use it to help bring relief to people whose daily lives have been dislocated by lack of electricity and water, and who are waiting for help in the deep cold conditions of a Canadian winter. Your Christian brothers and sisters want to be of help, as your church has always been ready to help when we in Taiwan have needed it."

This is indeed, partnership in mission!

Correction Jan/Feb 1998 Glad Tidings

The Grenada Presbyterian Church project mentioned on pages 10-11 in which Joseph and Lynda Sahadat are involved is under the umbrella of the United Church of Canada, *not the Presbyterian Church in Canada.*

NEWS

POPE VISITS CUBA

Havana, 28 January (ENI)–Cuban Protestants have given a broad welcome to comments about ecumenism made by Pope John Paul II during his five-day visit to the island.

The Pope met about 30 religious leaders, including representatives of the Jewish community in Havana, on 25 January, his last day in Cuba. Most of the religious leaders were from the Evangelical, Pentecostal and Protestant churches which belong to the Ecumenical Council of Cuba.

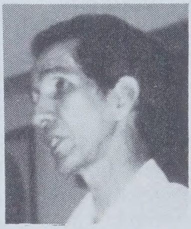
During the meeting, in the residence of the Vatican's ambassador to Cuba, the Pope said that "no historical circumstance, no ideological or cultural conditioning should hinder fraternal relations, the focus and purpose of which must be solely to serve the unity which Jesus wanted".

"We know that a return to full communion demands love, courage and hope, which are the fruits of persistent prayer," the Pope said in his message.

About almost half of Cuba's population of 11 million is Roman Catholic, although only a small percentage of them attend church regularly. About three per cent of Cubans are Protestant–members of the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal and Nazarene churches. Many Cubans follow the Afro-American Spiritist religion, Santeria.

Hector Mendez, pastor of the main Presbyterian Church in Cuba, and a member of the central committee of the World Council of Churches, told ENI that "the meeting and the ecumenical message of the Pope were important because they open a new chapter in our relations".

Ofelia Ortega, rector of the Ecumenical Seminary of Matanzas, Cuba's biggest Protestant seminary, said...that the Pope's visit had an "immense significance" for all the Cuban people. "The Pope's demand that the Catholic Church have a greater access to the media in Cuba could open a space of action to all the churches, not only for the Catholic Church."



- Hector Mendez, First Presbyterian Church, Havana, Cuba.

Estela Hernandez, a pastor and vice-president of the Fellowship of the Baptist Churches in Cuba, also told ENI "...we hope that the words of the Pope against the [US] embargo [against Cuba] will be heard world-wide," she said. –Luigi Sandri

BAN ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS OTTAWA URGED

TORONTO, February 24 (CCC)– Canada's top church leaders appeared before a Standing Committee of the House of Commons to talk about the moral urgency of a global drive to abolish nuclear weapons.

They point out that the "second Red Book" commits the Liberal government to "work vigorously to eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons...from the planet". But the pastors base their own commitment on another authority.

"As church leaders, we believe that obedience to (the) call of God requires us now to raise our voices in urgent appeal" for a nuclear weapons ban, says a letter to the Prime Minister signed by senior officers of nineteen (19) denominations. The letter calls nuclear weapons abolition "one of the most profound spiritual challenges of our era."

"The Canadian churches which we represent," says the February 18 letter, "are committed to continuing their work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, in cooperation with other Canadian and international nuclear abolition efforts... (W)e respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you at the earliest possible date to explore ways in which Canadian churches can further support the government in taking bold new steps to make nuclear weapons abolition an urgent priority."

To make their point in person, a delegation of church leaders were to testify on February 26 before the Canadian Parliament's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. They want Canada to make abolition "the central goal of Canadian nuclear weapons policy," aiming for all states to negotiate by the year 2000 "an agreement for the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework."

Leaders of nineteen different Christian denominations in Canada signed the February letter to the Prime Minister. The churches they serve, which belong to the Canadian Council of Churches, range in size from the tiny British Methodist Episcopal Church to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, with whom more than twelve million Canadians are affiliated. Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Rev. John Congram, was among the signees.

A LESS PRIVILEGED CHURCH IN HONG KONG

Historically there was (and still is) an extremely close and intricate church-state relationship in Britain. The king or queen is both the head of state and head of the Church. This close tie between the State and the Church was brought to Hong Kong by Britain in the 1840s.

That explained why during the colonial days the protocol list of the Hong Kong government placed the Anglican bishop and the Roman Catholic bishop just after the governor, the commander of the British armed forces station in Hong Kong, the chief justice and the chief secretary.

With very few exceptions, former governors of Hong Kong and many senior civil servants were devout Christians. Thus, the established Church in Hong Kong enjoyed tremendous influence and privileges.

For instance, in the use of land in Hong Kong, all land belonged to the Crown. However, there was one exception: St. John's Cathedral and its grounds, which was the only freehold in Hong Kong. Over the past century and a half, the government leased lots of land to various churches either at no charge or a nominal premium to build church premises, schools, social centres, hospitals, etc. In Kowloon, for example, there is a "holy mountain"...On this mountain, there are three church-administered high schools, two churches, a church social service centre, a Lutheran publishing house and the Lutheran Centre. Similarly, on Bonham Road and Robinson Road on Hong Kong Island, there was the stronghold of the former London Missionary Society, consisting of a church, a girls' college, missionary quarters and a hospital. (The mission society's successor, the Council for World Mission, sold the hospital site for HK$1.68 billion five years ago).

In Kowloon Tong, one of the most expensive areas in the territory, many of the choicest sites are occupied by various churches in the territory. In 1981, the former Anglican bishop, the Roman Catholic bishop and a former general secretary of the Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC) formalized an agreement with the government regarding the use of land by churches in new towns. This was to enable the Christian churches to develop their work, especially in the New Territories.

Because of the government's favouritism, the Church in Hong Kong was able to expand its work by leaps and bounds, particularly in the past three decades. Presently the churches in Hong Kong have more than 1,000 congregations and are managing more than 60 percent of the social welfare centres, more than 40 percent of the schools and about 20 percent of the hospitals.

However, this has begun to change since Hong Kong became a Special

Administrative Region (SAR) of China in July 1997. In the new protocol list announced by the SAR government in early January 1998, the position of the Anglican bishop and the Roman Catholic bishop has been demoted to No. 11 in the official rankings (in addition, the chief Buddhist monk and the heads of the Hong Kong Islamic Association, the Hong Kong Taoist Association, the Hong Kong Confucian Society and HKCC are also included).

The birthday of Buddha will also become a public holiday as of next year (probably replacing one of the four Easter holidays). It is known that SAR Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa is a devout Buddhist cum Confucian.

Certainly the wider community in Hong Kong will increasingly be less exposed to the Christian faith and the Christian Church. On Remembrance Sunday in November and during the opening of the legal year in January, Christian services were no longer a part of the official ceremony.

The major reason for this ever widening gap between the rich and the poor is that the major policy decisions in the past were all made by a handful of senior officials who were greatly influenced by business tycoons. In the new administration, the situation has become even worse. Tung, himself a business tycoon, wants to have a say on all policy matters. Presently his policy initiatives have reflected only the interests of the business community.

Hong Kong has reached a very critical stage. It needs an alternative voice. Let the Church of Hong Kong seize this opportunity and be such a voice.

- Rev. Kwok Nai Wang, Director, Hong Kong Christian Institute, Excerpted from their Newsletter, Issue 113, February 1998.

CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN GUATEMALA

Louisville, KY–Though there's no certainty, Presbyterians in Guatemala believe that a gunshot fired into the home of the widow of a murdered pastor was accidental, not deliberate.

What people are certain of is that violence like this is terribly typical in a Guatemala full of guns left over from a long, bloody civil war. The shot grazed the arm of 8-year-old Mildred Saquic, the daughter of Maria Francesca Saquic Ventura and the late Manuel Saquic, a Presbyterian pastor whose 1995 torture and death is thought to have been a reprisal for his human rights work and for his having witnessed a civil patrol's abduction of another murdered Presbyterian, Pascal Serech, who was a member of the Kaqchiquel Presbytery's Human Rights Committee.

The most recent incident occurred November 26, 1997, when shooting began outside the Saquic household. Saquic's widow has been repeatedly harassed–as have been members of her extended family–for pressing for the arrest and prosecution of her husband's accused killer, Victor Roman Cotzál, a former military commissioner who has been missing since a warrant was issued for his arrest for the Saquic murder. The widow has also given testimony to Amnesty International delegates who visited Guatemala in 1997.

"Though there's no certainty, we believe this was random fire," said Kaqchiquel Presbytery moderator Margarita Similox, who was threatened by a death squad two years ago for pressing both the Saquic and Serech cases in criminal court. "Random fire is common in our country now. After the peace treaty, there's been a big increase in delinquency."

But for those whose lives have been threatened for years, it is hard to tell when a gunshot is random and when it is not. – Alexa Smith

AMNESTY, NOT AMNESIA

The painful, historical reckoning with apartheid and related atrocities now underway in South Africa primarily through its Truth and Reconciliation Commission contains many lessons for any

society hurting and in need of healing in the wake of crime.

"Amnesty, not Amnesia" - South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Indeed, the work of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) touches on matters of truth, accountability, pain and forgiveness as it attempts to address enormously complex social ills. The Church Council on Justice and Corrections staff recently attended an Ottawa presentation on the work of the commission given by the TRC commissioner and staff. A synopsis follows.

The TRC first researched approximately 15 "truth" commissions conducted in various countries after a war or a period of prolonged terrorism and internal strife. Most opted either for a retributive approach or a general amnesty. The TRC in South Africa was an attempt to move on into the post-apartheid future in South Africa, without ignoring its past. Amnesty could not slip into amnesia.

Its question, much like individuals and communities reeling from the harm from crime, was how to deal with the past and at the same time move ahead. Johnny de Lange, a commissioner, told the audience: "The struggle in South Africa is' far from over. In some ways it is only beginning. Before, as part of the African National Congress, we were united on what were against, i.e. apartheid. Now the question is–what are we for."

The TRC is more of a consensual process than an event. De Lange calls it a "social reconstruction or reconciliation model." Its most urgent issue was the matter of amnesty. Those interested must make individual application. It must be requesting amnesty for a specific crime. And it must be shown that the crime had a political motive. There must be a public hearing. The amnesty is for only the specific crimes acknowledged. There is a role for victim participation and cross examination.

One particularly helpful process has been going from village to village, letting the people speak about the atrocities committed. People spoke in their own tribal language and appreciated the public acknowledgment, in some cases for the first time, that murders had occurred. Participants testified to the "dignity" this brought and how finally they and their complaints had not been dismissed as "trouble making". These community forums were "soft places for hard issues". The TRC is also investigating the opportunities for reparation, e.g. scholarships for orphaned children, compensation for widows who lost supporting husbands, etc. Some families learned where their loved one had been buried. As well, the atrocities are becoming part of the public, formal and official record for South Africa. Victims and others said this too was important.

Repentance is never demanded but it is a frequent outcome in many sessions. There are new challenges. When is an apology genuine, and when is it a way to get away with murder? In addition, some of the perpetrators in the smaller villages who confessed felt threatened after the TRC left. They had confessed, and now they were unprotected. Some who only knew how to kill needed an entire "re-training".

He said the TRC was beginning to get at the "massive denial" in the country and society. The role of churches and non-government organizations will be important in future healing work. As Bishop Desmond Tutu of the TRC put it: "The amnesty process is only one part of a much wider national project of healing and reconciliation, and it needs to operate as an integral part of the total mission of the TRC. To have the amnesty hearings continue simply as a legal mechanism, without any reference to the wider objectives of the TRC could subvert what we have achieved so far." Reprinted with permission from Update: The Church Council on Justice and Corrections newsletter, Winter 1998. The Presbyterian Church is a member of this eleven-member national church coalition.

IN THE SOCIETY

PRESBYTERIAL

The 116th Annual Meeting of **Lindsay** Presbyterial was held on January 21 at Knox Church, Glenarm, Ontario.

A warm welcome greeted the 50 women who arrived. Upon assembling in the church a sing along was led by Helen Torrey with Blanche Simpson at the organ. Vice President Marcia Whyte of Bobcaygeon chaired the meeting in the absence of president Grace Jess due to eye surgery. Anita McLennan welcomed everyone on behalf of the Glenarm WMS.

The theme was *Belonging to Jesus–Knowing, Growing and Showing.* Marguerite Millar and Mary Ann Schell of Bobcaygeon led the morning worship using the scripture John 15:5-14 ("I am the vine..."). God lets us know that we belong to Him, and that we can grow in God by using our talents to glorify Him, by helping others. We can show others the way to Him by our life style, loving our neighbours as ourselves, and becoming a channel through which God's love can flow.

Past President June Nesbitt conducted the installation of officers and Anita McLennan gave book reviews.

After luncheon, we convened with another sing along. Leaskdale members conducted the memorial service. Sheila Mayville then introduced guest speaker, Esther Powell, President of Council Executive. Esther spoke and showed slides of her trip to India last November.

Eleanor Grant of Bolsover thanked our guest speaker, and all who took part in the days activities. Marcia Whyte gave the benediction.

- The new executive for 1998 Lindsay Presbyterial (missing is President Grace Jess) at Knox, Glenarm, January 21st, 1998.

Enjoying a beautiful winter's day on Saturday, January 31, the Annual Meeting of the **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held at St. Andrew's, Sarnia, with a good attendance. Welcome words were spoken by the interim minister, Rev. George Bell.

The day's program "Women, Justice, Mission" was chaired by president Margaret McNeil. In dialogue style Joyce McLachlin and Isobel Nisbet highlighted the reports of the various secretaries. Solos were sung by Evelyn Shaw.

On the theme *Keeping Ourselves Safe* Dorothy Neal and Bonnie Arbour presented a skit with the help of several others, which provided many worthwhile suggestions for keeping out of harm's way.

Area staff Erin Crisfield installed the 1998 officers. Courtesies were given by Vice-President Anna McCoskery. In the closing worship led by Fleur Eenkhoorn, an In Memoriam was included for the members who died during 1997.

The Annual Meeting of **London** Presbyterial was held in the Glencoe Church on January 22. The theme for the year is "*The Many Faces of Mission",* and for the meeting it was *Mission on our Doorstep.*

Following a musical prelude with Margaret McCullough and with Eleanor McMillan on the piano, the President, Jean Middleton opened the meeting. Welcome was extended by the minister of Glencoe Church, Rev. Calvin Lewis, and devotions were led by the New St. James WMS. In Memoriam was by the Belmont group.

Business included the name change of the Hamilton and London Synodical to the "Synodical of Southwestern Ontario".

Bible Study was led by Erin Crisfield, Area Staff, on the theme.

Following lunch, guests were introduced by Muriel Stavert from Knox, St.

Thomas. Speaker Alberta Fraser of the Ark Aid Mission, London, was introduced by Eva Murray. She spoke about the work that is being done with those in need in the city core in London. Thanks was extended by vice-president, Jean Stewart.

Offering and prayer of dedication by Glencoe was followed by the installation of officers by Erin Crisfield.

A Service of Holy Communion with the Rev. Calvin Lewis and Session of the Glencoe Church concluded the meeting.

West Toronto Presbyterial held its 84th Annual Meeting at Rexdale Church on Saturday, February 21. The theme was *Rejoice Always, Pray Without Ceasing.* President Dorothy Clark constituted the meeting and conducted the program. Devotions were given by Dorothy Hopper.

Guest speaker Rev. Harry Waite, Mission Superintendent for Toronto/Kingston Synod/Synodical spoke on the formation of the early church in Thessalonica.

Susan Norman presented an Honorary membership to Dorothy Hopper. The installation of officers was conducted by Esther Powell, President of Council Executive. Greetings were brought by Giollo Kelly and Lorna Teare.

A delicious lunch was served by the Rexdale women. After lunch Esther Powell spoke about her trip to India.

New president, Beverly McWhinnie thanked Dorothy Clark, retiring president and closed the meeting with prayer.

Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, Ontario on February 3. Due to the illness of the President, Dorothy McCombie, acting President, Lenora Arbuckle, constituted the meeting followed by a meditation by Mary Fountain.

Rev. Dr. Peter Darch welcomed all to St. Andrew's and voiced the interest he had in the work of the WMS.

Since this was the 25th Anniversary of the amalgamation of part of the Saugeen Presbyterial with Guelph Presbyterial, eventually Waterloo-Wellington, past presidents were invited to give "memories" or highlights of their terms as President. These were interspersed throughout the day. Seven past Presidents were heard from in a very interesting and informative way. Vera Richardson, the last President of Saugeen Presbyterial, spoke encouragingly to the meeting.

-Past presidents of Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial (formerly Saugeen and Guelph Presbyterials). Seated is present President Evelyn Dwinell, new president of Waterloo-Wellington.

A Memorial Service was given by Eileen Young to remember those members who passed away during 1997.

During the noon hour a birthday cake made by one of the members for the 25th Anniversary was enjoyed by all.

Helen Brisbin, Maureen Spencer and Peggy O'Kane sang "Open My Eyes that I May See" from the new Book of Praise.

The acting President presided over reports and business. The officers were installed by Lorna Teare, Synodical President.

Courtesy remarks were given by Mary McPherson and the meeting was closed with prayer.

The ice storm hit Eastern Ontario resulting in the January Annual Meeting of the Brockville Presbyterial being held in February at St. Andrew's, Spencerville.

The theme *Hope and Healing* was discussed with groups using three stories from The Hand of God. The PWS&D video, Partnership for Hope, was viewed. The theme was related to local concerns by a panel representing the clergy, Alcoholics Anonymous, Victorian Order of Nurses, and Partners for Children in Development in Honduras.

The Morrisburg group conducted the opening devotions, and Brockville groups led an "In Memoriam" service. Rev. Ian MacLean, Prescott-Spencerville charge, installed the officers with Henny Donkersteeg as president. The meeting closed with the reading of "Hope in Christ" from The Living Faith.

A Good Laugh Can Help Through Hard Times was the theme for the annual meeting of the **Maitland** Presbyterial held in Wingham, Ontario on January 19th.

President Erlma Haldenby welcomed everyone and opened with a reading and prayer. The morning session was taken up with reports from the past year.

It was decided to try twinning a society from the west with one from the east for one year to exchange visits, ideas for programs and get to know each other better.

Laura Lee Cayley spoke briefly on the work of the CGIT and encouraged support from the WMS groups for the local groups right up to the national level.

Greetings were brought from Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Peggy Kinsman.

The women of the Wingham afternoon group led in the devotions in the afternoon following the theme. They talked of the benefits of laughter and having a sense of humor.

Two different workshops were held, the first for presidents, secretaries and treasurers and the second for either worship or program planning.

Area Staff Erin Crisfield installed the new officers. The new president, Shirley McCall challenged everyone to follow the Mission endeavours of the church as they worked together in the coming year.

The **Peterborough** Presbyterial Annual Meeting was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope, Ontario on January 21. The theme of the meeting was *Belong to Jesus with Healing and Harmony* (Luke 4:16-30 and Matthew 28: 16-20).

After registration a sing along was led by Jackie Kelly of Norwood accompanied by pianist Helen King of Warkworth. President Ada Chapman of Lakehurst opened the meeting. Nancy Millar of Norwood conducted the worship service. Rev. David McBride of St. Paul's, Port Hope welcomed us to the church.

Will Elmslie sang a medley of songs accompanied by Ross Metcalf at the piano.

We then viewed a video entitled "Out of the Cold" a CBC National News Production about concerns for street people in Toronto.

A delicious lunch was served by the women of St. Paul's and we had time to purchase books from the Book Display.

The afternoon session started with another sing along. Marie Glover of Warkworth led in a Memoriam Service.

Kass Whitefield of Cobourg introduced guest speaker, Rev. Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary, WMS. Her topic was about our futures and the future of the WMS. Peggy McKay of Port Hope thanked the guest speaker.

The nominating committee from Campbellford presented the officers for 1998 and Rev. Charlotte Brown installed them. Courtesies were given by Marilyn Dow of Bowmanville. President Ada Chapman closed the meeting with prayer.

The True Vine was the theme of the Annual Meeting of **Westminster** Presbyterial held in St. Columba Church, Vancouver, BC on Wednesday, February 18th.

Rev. Murat Kuntel led the devotions on the theme. Wayne Stretch and Janet Tremblay were welcomed to the meeting by the President, Barbara Marshall.

Tamiko Corbett, the second woman, and the first lay person to hold the office of Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, was the guest speaker. She told of her experience in Guatemala and threw down a challenge to the WMS to look at how they can reach out to those who need both spiritual and practical help at our own front doors.

A special highlight of the meeting was the presentation to Barbara Marshall, President, of a life membership given by her executive for her leadership and commitment to WMS.

Grace Stewart WMS of St. Columba were hostesses for the meeting and their contribution was much appreciated by all.

The installation ceremony for the new officers for 1998 was conducted by Tam Corbett, and featured the "Weaving a Wreath of Service" by Marilyn Findley from the Glad Tidings.

East Toronto Presbyterial held its 83rd Annual Meeting on February 28th at Trinity Church, North York, Ontario. The theme of the meeting was *The Fields Are White Unto Harvest.*

As members were gathering a lively hymn sing was led by Joan Neilson with Lorna Teare at the piano.

A warm welcome was extended to the Presbyterial by Doreen Murray, president of Trinity's Presbyterian Women. Lorna Teare, president of Toronto-Kingston Synodical and Dorothy Clark from West Toronto Presbyterial brought greetings.

A meaningful devotion, based on our theme, was conducted by Doreen Murray, Dorothy Hunter and Deborah Kerner of Trinity Church.

Literature secretary, Eva Powrie, displayed some interesting books for purchase.

Esther Powell, president of WMS Council Executive, spoke and showed slides of her trip to India as representative of the WMS at the 100th Anniversary of the Bhil Mission Field. The Canadian group was moved by the love and sacrifices shown towards them by the people of India.

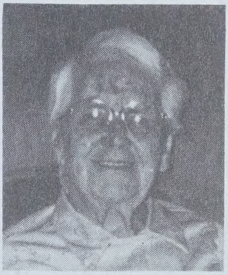
A time of prayer was led by members of Presbyterial executive. Installation of officers was conducted by Esther Powell. Lynda Reid, Area Staff, led the closing worship.

Trinity women served a delicious lunch at tables beautifully set with fresh flowers.

LOCAL

Mrs. Bert (Clara) Burditt celebrated her 90th birthday last fall. She was a member of the Salvation Army until moving to Alberton from Hamilton in 1941. Then she became a member of **Alberton** Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday School, was a choir member and served as President and Secretary for the Alberton WMS.

Clara was presented with a life membership while serving as Welcome and Welfare Secretary on the Presbyterial. She also was Secretary of District #4 for 25 years (1960-1985).



– Clara Burditt

Shakespeare, St. Andrew's Women's Missionary Society calls it quits after 107 years: Having dwindled to a mere seven members and no new members coming on board, the group held their last meeting in December 1997.

The group's "founding meeting" was held September 8, 1890 at St. Andrew's Church, North Easthope Township to organize an Auxiliary to the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. Mrs. Scott of Brooksdale conducted the meeting. Nine members joined. Mrs. Pyke was the first President. Many milestones have been celebrated since then.

In 1997 the Christmas Worship Service

– Left to right: Grace Campbell, Jean Holmes, Doris Hyde, Jeanette Laing, Annie McTavish, Florence Riddell and Pearl Kelly, Shakespeare, St. Andrew's WMS.

from the Glad Tidings was followed. All members took part including one visitor.

Year end reports were given, Roll Call was answered by "Naming your favorite Christmas Carol".

An Anniversary cake was cut by the oldest member Annie McTavish.

Recently, Evelyn McKenney, pictured left below, President of the Women's Association of **St. Andrew's, Welland**, presented WMS Life Memberships and pins to (left to right of Evelyn) Eryl Roberts, Ruby Lucas and Jessie Armstrong.

ANNIVERSARY

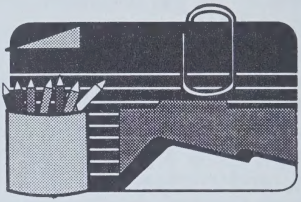
The WMS of **St. Paul's Church, Wiarton**, Ontario celebrated their 100th Anniversary on November 2, 1997. The members conducted the church service with David and Miriam Barrie as guest speakers whose address centered on their experiences in Malawi these past seven years.

After the service we enjoyed a buffet luncheon complete with an Anniversary cake. Our guest speakers used slides to vividly portray the country and people of Malawi, and the progress on their projects.

Donna Pretswell and Eva Metler were in period dress for the occasion. There was a collage of snapshots of mothers and grandmothers who had been involved with WMS in the past century. Also on display was a 75-year-old quilt which represented the dedicated busy hands of our ancestors.

This past year two new WMS members have joined bringing our 1997 membership to twelve–equal to the original membership of 1897!

Circulation News

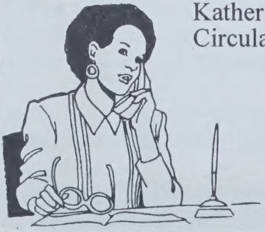


Has your group elected a new Glad Tidings Secretary or contact person during the year? If so, please let us know by the beginning of July so that we can send our fall mailing (which will go out in August) to the proper source. Please include the name of the congregation and the group number when corresponding. It is helpful to know who the Glad Tidings secretary or contact person is in case we need to be in contact during the year.

Promoting the Glad Tidings is an ongoing task and sometimes takes a lot of effort on the part of the secretary and others within the group. This is a good time of year to plan your promotion of the Glad Tidings magazine. We can supply you with up to 50 copies of the magazine for promotion within your congregation. Please contact the Glad Tidings office indicating the number of copies and name of congregation.

Please check the label on your magazine to make sure your mailing address is correct. If you are moving, please notify us at least six weeks before and include a label from your copy of the Glad Tidings. If anyone has difficulties receiving their magazine, please check with the post office first then notify our office and we can check our files to find out what the problem might be.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager



Life giving water
A spring of water
becomes a source from which we
draw lessons of life.
(based on John 4:4-26)
Haiku by Betty Ho

IN REMEMBRANCE

Irene Brundige Nygaard
Llewellyn,
Calvin, Abbotsford, BC

Miss Jean Allan,
Appin, ON

Mrs. Clara Robinson,
Essa Road, Barrie, ON

Mrs. Marjorie Gunby,
Mrs. Donna Sauter,
St. Paul's, Burlington, ON

Mrs. Jean Beckerson,
Caledonia, ON

Mrs. Sarah Billen,
St. Andrew's, Burnbrae,
Campbellford, ON

Grace Cameron Calder,
St. Paul's, Carluke, ON

Mrs. Madge Clark,
St. Andrew's, Dresden, ON

Annie McKay,
Knox, Embro, ON

Miss Margaret Paterson,
St. Paul's Englehart, ON
(formerly St. James, Long
Branch, Toronto)

Florence (Barclay) Arbuthnott,
Etobicoke, ON
(formerly of St. Marys, ON)

Mrs. Muriel McMillan,
Mrs. Velma Rombough,
St. Luke's-Knox, Finch, ON

Mrs. Hazel Runions,
St. Andrew's, Guelph, ON

Mrs. Betty Budge,
St. Columba, Hamilton, ON

Winnie Taylor,
Stamford, Niagara Falls, ON

Mrs. Jean McMillan,
St. Andrew's, Norwood, ON

Mrs. Fern Maclean,
St. Andrew's, Owen Sound, ON

Mrs. Francis Lavallee,
Renfrew, ON

Reta Fraser,
Knox, St. Catharines, ON

Mrs. George (Betty) Ward,
St. Giles, St. Catharines, ON

Mrs. D. Eileen Ward,
Calvin-Goforth, Saskatoon, SK

Patricia McIlvenna,
Westminster, Smiths Falls, ON

Mrs. Donelda Gordon,
St. Andrew's, Strathroy, ON

Mrs. Marion Proctor,
Glenview, Toronto, ON

Miss Laura Schissler,
Runnymede, Toronto, ON

Nellie Dennis,
Ann Ferguson,
Mary Watters,
St. Andrew's, Welland, ON

Mrs. Pearl Cumming,
Mrs. Bessie Hauser,
Knox, West Lorne, ON

Margaret Dunwoody,
St. James, Winnipeg, MB

Mrs. Ruth Dunn,
St. John's, Winnipeg, MB

Reminder: When sending in a name for the *In Remembrance* column, please give the name of the Church and how you would like the name listed i.e. Mrs., Miss, etc. We usually like to have the person's first name. It is also helpful to send in the name directly to the *Glad Tidings* office as soon as possible after the person's passing. This prevents the notice from being too outdated. Notices for "In Remembrance" are the responsibility of the Local Group Secretary.

Soul Spring

A choir of robins
sings the Hallelujah chorus
ends the night of winter
silence with their praise.

A sap-green veil
hangs on the valley.
Streams of life flow
bursting buds to leaf.

God's love like sun
embraces all, the earth
reborn and warmed
offers up her fragrance.

Your Spirit brings
life and resurrection
to my sluggish heart.
I too will sing your praise.

Gwyneth Bell

Glad Tidings is printed
on recycled paper

Please report any errors/changes in address.

Glad Tidings

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Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Note: Error in Volume Numbers – From July/August 1997, issues have been numbered incorrectly. 1997 issues should all read Volume 73, not 72. 1998 issues should all read Volume 74.

June 1998

Coming Full Circle

No doubt it was the first time in the history of Council meetings that tobacco was placed on a table for delegates to use. The President had asked people to pick up a stone on one of their outings to use in the closing worship. The tobacco was offered by delegate, Helen Isbister from Saskatoon, who said that when the native people take something from the earth they leave a little tobacco to replace it.

Helen spoke of her involvement in the Native Circle Ministry in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and of how her family were instrumental in the development of this congregation. The worship there combines Christianity and native spirituality. Everyone sits in a circle which signifies no beginning and no end, and sweetgrass is burned to create balance in the body and to help focus on positive thoughts. Native bread, bannock, is broken when communion is celebrated. For Helen, it is a good feeling to be able to give something back to her community.

Born on the Mistawasis Reserve about 100 kilometres north of Prince Albert, Helen is the third generation of elders in her family. At seven years of age, she was sent to the Birtle Residential School in Manitoba, run by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. She speaks without rancour about the isolation and the loneliness, and the fact that the residential school system did little to prepare students for marriage and family.

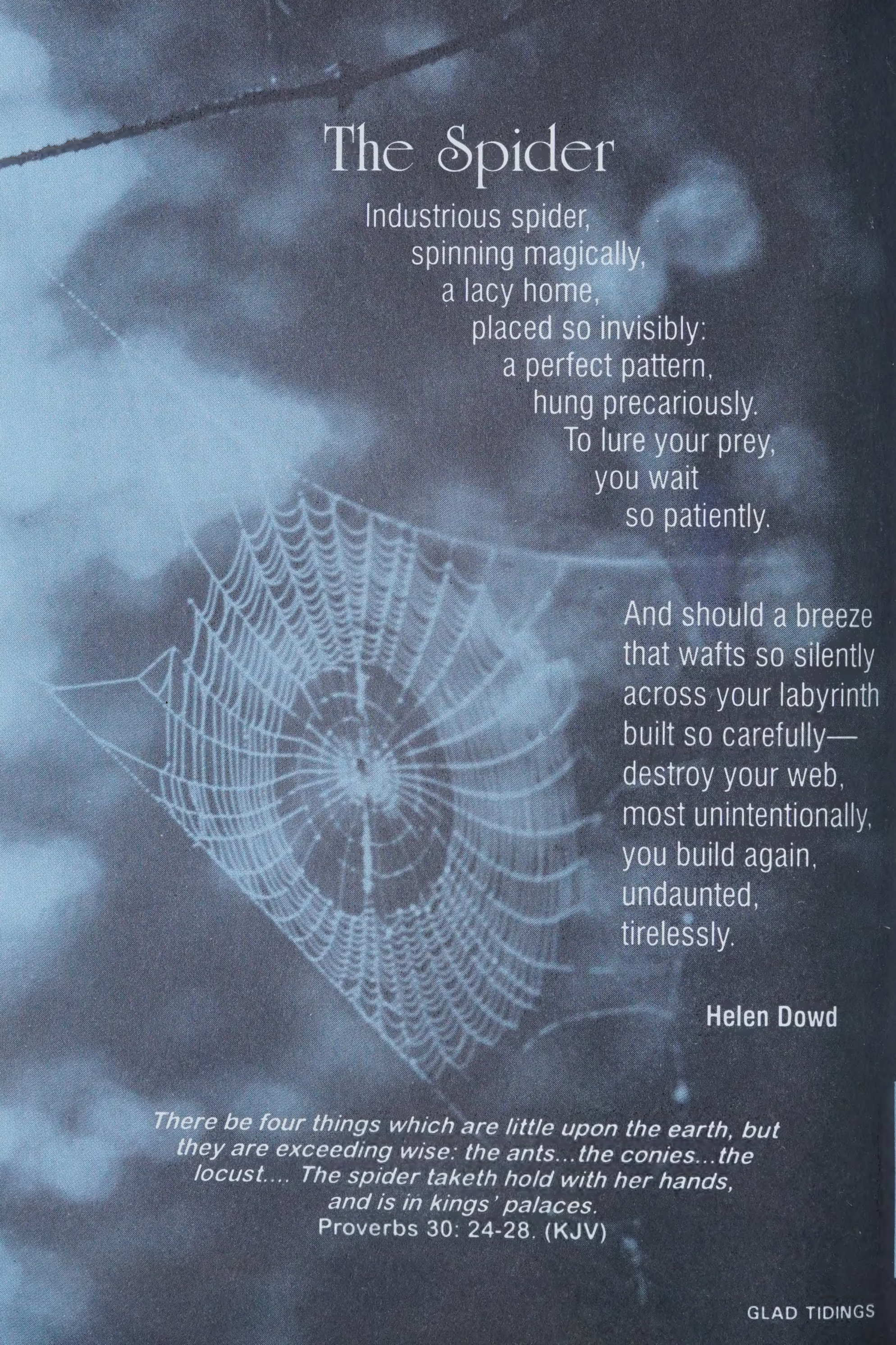
Married after one year of high school, Helen had two children before leaving her alcoholic husband. Her second relationship to another alcoholic, abusive man ended during the pregnancy of their 11th child. For a time, she too turned to alcohol before quitting and giving her life in the service of her community.

At age 64, Helen earned a degree as a social worker at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, then while working, continued university classes and earned her bachelor of arts degree. Today, she is a social worker at St. Paul's Hospital and works with First Nations programs in Saskatoon's inner city. Once voted Volunteer of the Year by the Indian-Metis Friendship Centre, Helen was named runner-up for citizen-of-the-year honours by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians in 1997. Later that year she was nominated in the community development category at the Saskatoon YMCA Women of Distinction dinner.

Helen has high praise for the ministry of people like Rev. Stephen How who came to the community thirty-seven years ago, and for the present minister Rev. Stuart Folster. "The heartbeat of native ministry is alive and well," she said, thanks to their ministry.

There were many unspoken feelings in the room as Helen concluded her talk: a fleeting vestige of remorse over past hurts and regret over long years of ignorance and silence; a willingness to let go of the past; an openness to the integration of native spirituality, and something akin to awe at the triumph of the human spirit over oppression. Perhaps we are finally coming full circle.

Written in Love
June.



The Spider

Industrious spider,
spinning magically,
a lacy home,
placed so invisibly:
a perfect pattern,
hung precariously.
To lure your prey,
you wait
so patiently.

And should a breeze
that wafts so silently
across your labyrinth
built so carefully—
destroy your web,
most unintentionally,
you build again,
undaunted,
tirelessly.

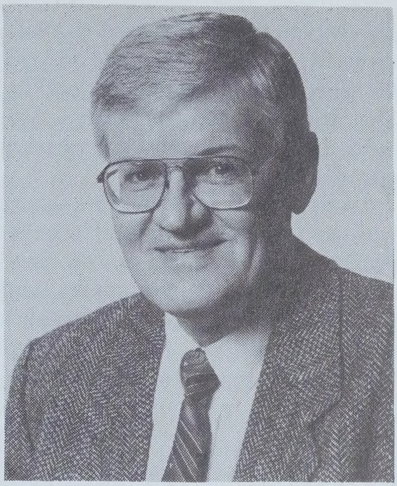
Helen Dowd

There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: the ants...the conies...the locust.... The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.
Proverbs 30: 24-28. (KJV)

Photo by Katherine Allen

A Message From the Moderator of the 123rd General Assembly:

John Congram



- Rev. John Congram

Walter Bryden was a Presbyterian who, for theological reasons, decided not to enter the United Church in 1925. After the Union, he became the principal of Knox College in Toronto. At the urging of his friends and colleagues, he wrote a book entitled *Why I Am a Presbyterian.* Last year, it was reprinted.

In this book, he makes the following comment about the WMS: "Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of our whole Presbyterian Church life, during the last eight years, has been the direct result of the sustained efforts of our Women's Missionary Society. To this work more than to anything else can be attributed the preservation of a true missionary spirit in the church." He goes on to laud the Society for taking the missionary spirit seriously in terms of study and of preparing young women to engage in pioneering and sacrificial service in Canada and around the world.

In greeting the members of the Women's Missionary Society, I would like to echo Bryden's words and add to them. During the year since my election as Moderator of the 123rd General Assembly, I have tried to emphasize three things: the necessity of evangelism, the importance of children as baptized members of the church, and the opportunities that a multiracial and multicultural Canada presents to the church.

Reflecting on these, I realize they have been central concerns of the Women's Missionary Society. Sometimes, it has seemed the society was the only group within the church keeping these matters alive.

Like me, I hope you are encouraged by the new missionary spirit in our church. Many congregations are launching out with their own mission experiments and initiatives, not waiting for the go-ahead from church offices. When the word missionary is used today, people no longer immediately think about someone else. Sessions and congregations are gradually understanding that they are the primary units of mission in both their communities and the world. In part, this is possible because the Women's Missionary Society would never let the church forget that mission is the life-blood of the church.

The church also owes a great debt to the Women's Missionary Society for keeping ministry with children alive. But the traditional ways we have done this ministry will need to change. Today, we are discovering that ministry with children involves more than providing programs for them. Children can minister to each other and to the whole church. We need to find ways for them to be fully integrated not only into the worship of the church but into its total life. Without children playing their full role, the rest of us cannot receive the gospel in its wholeness.

I know the WMS continues to struggle with its role in this time of change. For Presbyterians addicted to decency and order, it will not be easy to deal with the new era which will be considerably more messy than the past. More people will do "their own thing." Members want hands-on experiences. Variety will be the watchword. There will be mistakes and failures, but life in the future church will not be dull. Flexibility and the ability to embrace diversity as a gift from God will be two characteristics we will all need.

I hope the Women's Missionary Society will continue to help the church meet these challenges. In Dag Hammarskjold's oft quoted phrase: 'For all that is past, thanks; for all that will yet be, yes.' G

A Garden is Such a Quiet Place

**I spent some time with you today
though you were gone another way,
I saw your smile in the heart of a rose
in the quiet garden where it grows.
The rose you used to love to tend
we thought those days would never end,
now it's been so many years
I remember as I shed some tears.
I held your hand a little while
where lilies-of-the-valley smile,
the fragrant blossoms, pure and white
shine as candles in the night.**

**A garden is such a quiet place
where I find God, and your dear face.**

Gladys Nolan

Pray
Participate
Promote

The Church of North India Plans for the Future

by George Vais

-Presentation of souvenir crosses at Jubilee. Sandya Nelson and George Vais.

"Why is it that so many of us have so much at our disposal, and others don't even have the bare necessities of life?" This was my question in the early hours of a Sunday morning, as we travelled the streets of Bombay, on our way from the airport to the Mission house, where we were to spend three days of our three weeks in India. We saw thousands of people–men, women and children sleeping on the streets and many more living in shacks next to them. Was this real, or was it a dream?

As we fought the city traffic, even at 3 a.m. on that Sunday, more questions kept coming to me: "How does one begin to address these situations? Are people happy where they are? What are the chances of improving conditions even a little bit? Is there anything we can do to help? Do they want help? Or, do they have to do it themselves?"

I consider myself very fortunate to have had this unique opportunity of visiting India in 1997. This was the year when the country was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence from Britain and the Church of North India was celebrating its Jubilee.

I am grateful to our Church for asking me to represent our present Moderator, the Rev. John Congram, at the special celebrations. At the same time, I thank God for this remarkable opportunity to meet Christians in that part of the world who know that they are a minority (only 2% of India's population is Christian) nevertheless, they let their light shine in their crowded cities, towns and villages, and the beautiful and peaceful countryside.

There were 13 of us in all, representing the Presbyterian Church in Canada from coast to coast, including two young adults from Saskatchewan and Vancouver Island. For three weeks, we travelled together, we ate together, we even slept together. We laughed and cried together as we attended the various events, all the way from Bombay to Batala in the North.

At every event, we were welcomed by the people enthusiastically, eagerly and graciously. We felt like royalty. They were glad to see us, and anxious to talk to us. It was very obvious to us that they were most appreciative of our Church's contributions over the years. Every event was a highlight. The one that moved me most was the Jubilee celebrations at Amkhut. 2,000 strong, we met on the very spot where the Buchanans lived and began their ministry among their beloved Bhils.

For three days, we worshipped, we were entertained, we heard historic highlights, we mingled, and couldn't help but sense their joy and be touched by their infectious enthusiasm. The members of the Jubilee Committee worked hard, and they had every reason to be proud of their accomplishments.

The celebrations opened and closed with the Lord's Supper. On the last day of the celebrations, they felt it was important to have the last meal together. What an undertaking! What an unbelievable feeling to share a meal with brothers and sisters for whom this was a real treat!

Everywhere we went, we heard people express their appreciation for the work done by our missionaries over the years. They remembered them by name, and had all kinds of words of praise for each of them. We also noted how they held our present missionaries in high esteem. They were not being polite, it was obvious they meant it.

We visited many of the Church of North India's Hospitals, Schools, Nursing Homes, Daycare Facilities and Homes for people with special needs. They were glad to see us, and we were glad to meet them and hear their fascinating stories.

In between special events, we were invited to visit many of the smaller congregations throughout the country. The elders would conduct worship, they would welcome us, and then we would exchange greetings and gifts. They were reluctant to see us leave, and we were sad to say goodbye. Their commitment to Christ was obvious and their witness courageous, in spite of many hardships, and lacking all those things which we tend to take for granted.

We ended our visit to India by spending a good part of a day at the Church of North India's National Offices. Here's what we saw at the main entrance: "Pray, Participate, Promote - our Church's priorities during the last decade of the 20th century". We heard them share with us their plans and dreams for the future, and we were impressed.

I came away with mental pictures that refuse to go away. I still see people begging, others, both young and old, carrying water, supplies, name it, for miles. I see men, women and children working hard in their shops, in their fields, on the streets, trying to make a living. I was also impressed by their desire and determination to make it on their own.

Every place we visited, how could we forget the people's commitment to Christ and love for their Church? The Jubilee Committee in particular, must have worked long and hard for the three day celebrations, without too much input from our Canadian people, and they had every reason to be proud of their accomplishments.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless the Church of North India, and make it a blessing in that great country at the dawn of the 21st century.

- Dr. George Vais is a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and minister at Leaside Church, Toronto.

- Clarence McMullen (centre) and group in front of chapel at Batala.

A Handful of Sand

by Robert K. Anderson

A handful of sand. It might have been gold the way she gave it to me. And that is how I received it.

When Priscilla and I were appointed to Japan in the summer of 1997, it seemed simple and straightforward. We were to be received by The Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ), and assigned to work as pastors of the Nagoya Union Church during the absence of their regular minister. We had done this before, when Rev. Mary Kay Sapp and her husband Frank left for furlough in the USA. We were also to be available for anything that the KCCJ might want us to do. The last time we came, five years ago, our work was confined to the Nagoya Union Church-related activities. Simple and straightforward.

– "Encho" Robert K. Anderson receives a gift from Miko Kawase, age two at the "Ei Shin Nursery School" Nagoya. Photo by Mi Yung Ja Park.

But we forgot one thing. In Asia, nothing is ever simple, and rarely straightforward. We had been here for less than a week when there was a phone call one evening from Pastor Eui Saeng Hwang of the Nagoya Korean Church. He asked if I would be willing to serve as "Encho" (principal) of the Nagoya Nursery School for six months. I promised to think it over, and,he explained the duties–worship with the staff every morning, with the children in a joint service once a week, having lunch with the vice-principal and a couple of others, and attending the odd meeting of the Board of Directors. Nothing to it. I thought about it that evening, and agreed. After all, it was only for six months.

Some questions crossed my mind when, the following day, I was introduced to the department heads of the Social Service department of the ward. More thoughts when the same happened with the Education department of the City of Nagoya. All were very polite as we drank tea and exchanged name cards. I had been "Encho" some years ago, so there were no questions asked.

That was the beginning. But like so many things in Japan that have small beginnings, this began to grow. For one thing, you cannot meet a staff of fifteen every week-day morning for worship, over a period of months, without some kind of personal bonding. Although it was the Assistant Pastor who led the worship, just being together at the beginning of the day has a special meaning. Then, following this, there was the contact with the 65 or so children, ages six months to six years, who greeted me every morning–the older ones in easily-acquired English, and the others in Japanese. I soon learned that if you pick up one child, you have to do the same for all the children in the room. Also, if you are present when one is brought to the office for a band-aid, or to have some tears dried, you must be there for all.

Crossing the playground was a challenge and a delight. For the first while, the only washroom I knew was in the Church, which meant coming down the stairs, and going through an iron gate by the play area. No sooner would I appear than the telegraph would sound "Encho Sensei!", and soon half a dozen or more children were hanging by my arms and hands, like a bunch of grapes–friendly grapes to be sure, and not to be ignored.

The Nursery School cares for children of working parents, or sometimes parents that just prefer to do other things. It is supported by the city, regulated by the ward (in such matters as curriculum, health coverage, and even the daily menu) and operated by the Church. It receives both Korean and Japanese children, and is cared for by a professional staff of both Korean and Japanese adults. The Board of Directors is mostly made up of Nagoya Korean Church members, but also has a Japanese pastor for balance. The number of children is determined by the space available. The same board governs the Seniors' homes in Nagoya and Toyohashi, and a new Seniors' "Day Service" for 90 people which opened in April.

From the beginning it is made clear that there will be Christian instruction. Every child learns the meaning of prayer, and memorizes the Lord's prayer. Each month there is a Bible verse to be memorized, which is recited at the Friday joint service. (Recited? Shouted out!) Since this is not a Christian country, there is no trouble with having prayer in the classes, and, although many parents are not Christian, they have never raised any objection.

In March the School has a "Graduation" ceremony, which rivals that of major educational institutions. Each child receives a diploma, written by brush in beautiful Japanese and Chinese script, on high-grade paper, the whole thing rivaling the certificates of major Canadian universities. Graduation is taken very seriously: each child is called up by name, receives the certificate, a New Testament, and memorial gifts, and takes formal leave of the school. And that is as it should be. After all, graduating from the Nursery School and being launched into Elementary School is a major event–a farewell to early childhood, and the first step up the long and uncertain ladder of the Japanese educational system.

The child who gave me the handful of sand from the playground will not graduate this year. But when she does, she will at least have received some seeds of the Gospel, and some inkling of Christian fellowship. If that happens, then the sand will indeed turn to gold. G

– Rev. Priscilla Anderson is minister of Queen Street East Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on leave of absence for one year. Rev. Robert Anderson is retired, and is an elder in the same Church. They have served in Japan for a total of sixteen years over a thirty-two year period. Their present appointment under the Life and Mission Agency ends in June, 1998.

To Weep is Human

by Jo Leath

I am one of the most lachrymose people I know. Despite being raised in a culture where stiff upper lips were required for survival, I have evolved to the point that the disposable tissue industry is assured a consistent market.

I cry at miracles; I cry at the birth of newborn babies and the coming of spring; over the abundant crops the earth yields to feed us. I weep when confronted with the immeasurable beauty of the world under snow. I am moved to tears by all the shades and colours to which leaves can turn in autumn.

I cry for excellence in human endeavour: I was present once when Yehudi Menuhin played. I cry when I hear massed choirs uniting the voices of many into one magnificent sound.

I cry for feats of engineering that built bridges, scaled pyramids, and carved totems tall enough to seem to touch the sky. I weep when I hear reruns of the crash of the Hindenburg, most especially when the journalist's voice breaks as he cries, “Oh, the humanity.”

> When Jesus saw her (Lazarus' sister, Mary) weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep.
>
> John 11:33-35

I cry from my small place within the enormity of the universe, for the pride in Apollo 11, the fear in Apollo 13, and the stark tragedy of Challenger. I wept when Marc Garneau and Roberta Bondar looked down upon our planet and defied us to deny the existence of a universal power.

I cry for patriotism, always recalling the day I was granted Canadian Citizenship by an Aboriginal judge, whose people had lived in Haida Gwaii since crossing the Bering Strait, longer ago than I can imagine.

I cry for the dimensions of the human spirit. I cry when I hear Martin Luther King's ‘I Have a Dream’ speech. I sobbed more recently when a million African American men converged on Washington to make themselves heard, declaring their brotherhood and their willingness to unlearn the violence they have been taught.

I cry for pride in the self, as it manifests itself in the flag bearers of tiny unheard-of republics, as they enter and leave international sporting events. They offer me a perfect vision of a multi-cultural world united.

I cry for the old soldiers at November 11th ceremonies; for the horrors they have witnessed and lived with for so long. I cry at the sight of rows of white crosses nestled in perfect green lawns in Belgium and Holland, each with fresh flowers, so lovingly tended by people who never knew the buried youths.

I cry for the world grieving after the senseless death of Diana, Princess of Wales, who had so much work left to do; for Mother Teresa, who had done so much we could not imagine a world without her. After assassinations: John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King,

I claim the right to cry. I do not recognize limitations on my humanity; I will not apologize for my ability to weep.

Itzaak Rabin, and too many others in my own short lifetime.

I cry too for devastated families, after easily forgotten outrages like the wedding gunman in Vernon; the French and Mahaffie families; the parents who have struggled on after Clifford Olsen stole their children's lives.

When I hear the lyrics of the song 'Imagine,' I wonder what else Lennon might have written had he not been taken from us.

I cry for the continuity of tradition; for the look in a child's eyes when she holds the Shamash to light her first Chanukah candle. For her delight as she responds to the question, 'Why is this night different from all other nights?' My eyes overflow when a child, dressed in finery, partakes of her first Eucharist.

I respond with tears to pageantry. Coronations and Royal Investitures evoke tears for the untold centuries of history reflected in the rites and the rituals of diverse peoples.

I cry when the face of an innocent child is filled with a love and joy reflecting what all children should expect from life. I cry for the children who are dying from war or famine in far away places. I cry as loudly for those children whose souls are being murdered by violence within their families in homes close by.

I am more than a robot. My tears have been liberated. They raise me above unfeeling societal constructs to the status of a complete human being. I claim the right to cry. I do not recognize limitations on my humanity; I will not apologize for my ability to weep.

Praise to my Lord

What a love for God I have in my heart;
It is a blessing so great.
Knowing we will never have to part
So long as my way is straight.

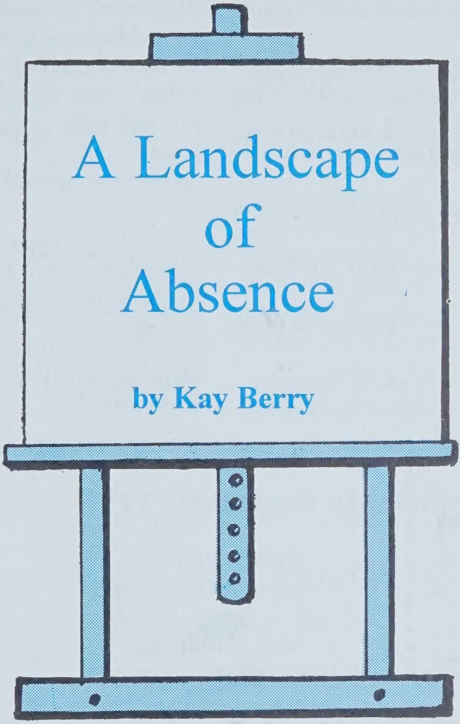
God surrounds my life with loving care
And watches me day and night.
To keep me safe and free from despair
With all God's holy might.

Hopeful I wait for the kingdom to come
Always on the alert.
Thankful I pray for God's will to be done
As in heaven so on earth.

Jenny Schulze

A Landscape of Absence

by Kay Berry



Recently the literary club to which I belong was given a writing assignment entitled “A Landscape of Absence”. An artist might consider creating a picture showing the absence of shape or cloud, but my mind went to the absent spaces left in my life when those whom I have loved went to what is euphemistically called “their great reward”.

Inevitably my thoughts go back to that day more than 20 years ago when my son answered the telephone. He then turned to me and said “Mum, he’s gone.” “He” was my spouse and friend for more than thirty years. My daughter-in-law went into my son’s arms and cried on his shoulder while I stood speechless, not knowing what to say.

I recall thinking that now I was alone. No more listening for the door to open and shut, his voice greeting me. He had a New Zealand accent, but I cannot now recall what his voice sounded like.

When all the immediate activity of arranging a funeral, a scattering of his ashes in the Air Forces’ Garden of Remembrance, when no more cards and flowers arrived, then the absence of his presence became more poignant. I had the feeling that people were avoiding me. The activities which we had shared were no longer open to me. Even my brother, who had been my life long friend seemed to avoid me. No longer did he and his wife invite me to attend places that we had joyfully shared in the past.

So I put my chin in the air and sought other activities. Activities in which I did not need a partner. I went on a trip to Israel with our minister, and I sat in the Garden of Gethsemane and thought of the anguish of our Lord as he prayed. I too prayed that this sense of absence would either leave me or become a familiar friend. I did return from that trip with a more composed and resigned sense of acceptance. However on one dark night when sleep would not come, I got up and wrote a poem:

In the dark of the night when sleep’s gone from me,
I reach out to touch, I turn round to see
The form that’s not there, and I cry out and say,
Tell me O Lord, tell me where,
“Teach me O Lord, teach me to pray.”
But God is so silent; I remember with pain
How many times in the past I have lain
Listening to hear the sound of his breath,
And saying “Thanks, God, the time is not yet.”

And I remember, with shame, the times that I’ve said
To comfort those others, “He is not dead”,

Or, “God in his wisdom knows best,” I would say,
“God has a plan, approach Him and pray.”
Smooth words, glibly spoken – and now my heart cries,
Smooth words – in my throat, where slowly they die.
And I wake in the night when sleep’s gone from me,
And I turn on the light, and he is not there.

The flames took his body – his soul is gone – where?
“To God” I am told, and sobs fill my throat,
And the air is so cold because he is gone,
And I must grow old without him beside me
To comfort and guide,
To love and to hold me, and be by my side.
When I falter and fall; O God how I long
For this pain to cease and for Your great Love
To give me release.

And God has done that – he has given me release and I can look back at the “Landscape of Absence”, in loving memory.

-Kay Berry is a freelance writer from Richmond, BC.

Honorary Membership Recipients 1997

Eileen Alexander
Glammis, Ontario

Helen Bares
Cambridge, Ontario

Margaret Brooker
Calgary, Alberta

Nancy Dunn
Guelph, Ontario

Aletha Erskine
London Presbyterial

Isobel Evans
Ottawa, Ontario

Vera Firth
Durham, Ontario

Lillian Hully
Victoria, British Columbia

Wanda Johnson
Kingston Presbyterial

Jean Middleton
London Presbyterial

Margaret E. Milliken
Brandon, Manitoba

Susan Norman
Toronto, Ontario

Sheila Paterson
Glengarry Presbyterial

Margaret Pirie
Dundas, ONtario

Donna Wilson
Winchester, Ontario

Cleo Yeatman
Ottawa, Ontario

Certificate of Recognition Recipients 1997

Pearl Forrest
Oak Ridges Presbyterial

Ryan Hyaski
Oak Ridges Presbytetrial

Jean McLaren
Lindsay Presbyterial

Lorena Mclaren
Renfrew, Ontario

Mr. & Mrs. Roy McNicoll
Lindsay Presbyterial

Rebecca Strung
Oak Ridges Presbyterial

"Contrary-Wise"

by Patricia Elford

Read: James 3:5-18

Once upon a time, there was a club which was torn apart by conflict. "How could this have happened?" they wondered. "We had such high hopes, so many dreams. What can we do to change things?"

One brave soul, Cora, spoke up.

"Have you never noticed," she said, "that we're too critical of one another? We often hurt each other by making unkind remarks."

"That's right," commented Donald, "and we regularly criticize people behind their backs. I hate to miss a meeting!"

Said Henry, "And, I'm afraid to take on any new responsibilities here, for fear I'll do badly and no one will understand."

"Ah yes," said Brenda, "and if I am able to do it well, I'm afraid of that causing negative comments, too, with people looking for my flaws, to make themselves feel better. It's a very uncomfortable situation."

Now, this was a pious group, given to study and prayer, and one person drew out a Bible and read aloud James 3:5-18.

"Well, that makes it clear", said he, "we must be ready to have our tongues tamed!"

"Right!" they chorused, "If we can't say something good, we won't say anything at all! We'll try it at our next fellowship hour!"

Can you guess what happened? During the first coffee hour, after the hellos, there were no sounds but the sipping, stirring and munching!

At the next executive meeting, Sally moaned, "This is still a very uncomfortable situation! I feel like giving up!"

"I've a thought," said Bob. "Every time we feel like saying something negative about another member of the club, we'll silently pray for God to bless that person."

"Can't hurt!" exclaimed Benito. "We'll try it! We'll ask God to apply 'lipguard'."

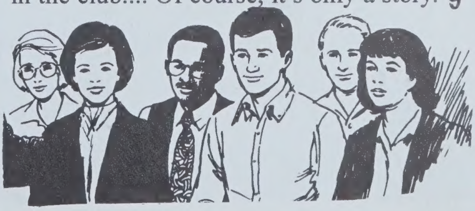
Well, at first, there was an awful lot of lip moving that made the club members somewhat suspicious of each other, but soon, wonderful things began to happen:

> *"How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire."*
> James 3:5b-6a NRSV

The more the members prayed for God's blessings on each other, the more they were moved to help those prayers to be answered affirmatively.

The more those prayers were answered "yes", the more they discovered qualities in the others for which to be truly thankful.

The more they appreciated one another, the more new persons sought membership in the club.... Of course, it's only a story. 𝔊



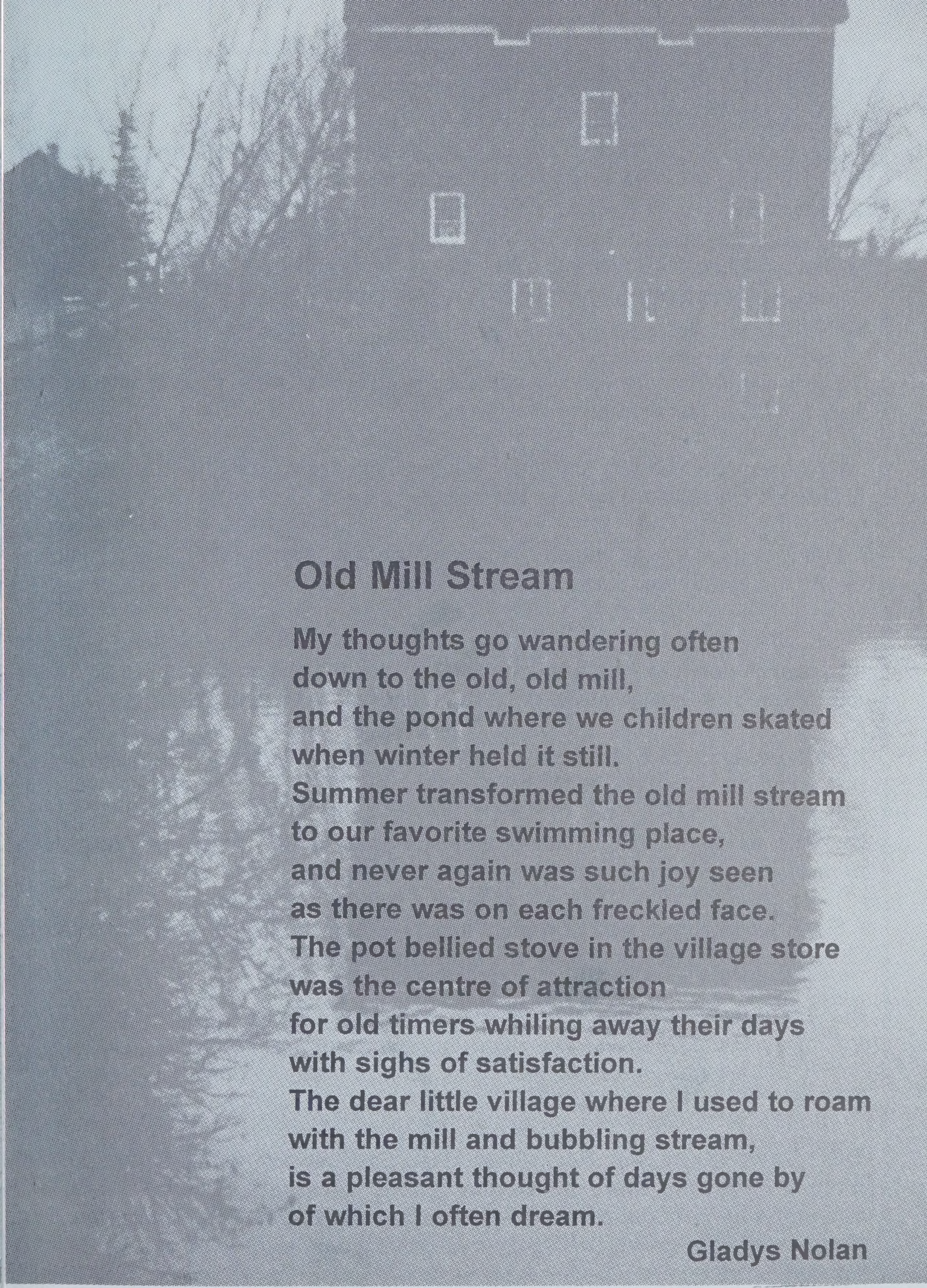
Elijah - A Puzzle

by Jim Phillips

B	A	A	L	E	B	E	Z	E	J
S	T	E	A	L	T	A	R	G	E
W	E	T	O	I	R	A	H	C	R
I	H	D	M	J	E	R	I	F	I
D	P	I	F	A	E	O	H	A	C
O	O	B	R	H	V	H	V	M	H
W	R	A	J	L	A	I	U	I	O
N	P	H	L	Z	W	A	O	N	C
C	L	A	A	H	S	I	L	E	A
K	M	E	B	R	A	I	N	Q	V
S	L	A	G	L	I	G	R	D	E

AHAB
ALTAR
BAAL
CAVE
CHARIOT
ELIJAH
ELISHA
FAMINE
FIRE
GILGAL

HAZAEL
JEHU
JERICHO
JEZEBEL
PROPHET
RAIN
SMALL VOICE
WHIRLWIND
WIDOW



Old Mill Stream

My thoughts go wandering often
down to the old, old mill,
and the pond where we children skated
when winter held it still.
Summer transformed the old mill stream
to our favorite swimming place,
and never again was such joy seen
as there was on each freckled face.
The pot bellied stove in the village store
was the centre of attraction
for old timers whiling away their days
with sighs of satisfaction.
The dear little village where I used to roam
with the mill and bubbling stream,
is a pleasant thought of days gone by
of which I often dream.

Gladys Nolan

10 tips for reaching younger women

1. Mentoring can be the key to unifying younger and older women, but realize that mentoring is a two-way street. Both women have something to give to the relationship.

2. Flexibility and variety are vital keys for successfully including younger women. Meeting times, programming, topics, and opportunities need to be diversified.

3. Every life has a story. Offer a celebration time in which all ages of women can share how God has worked in their lives.

4. Don't separate younger and older women. Focus instead on the similarities we all share in the roles we have in our lives.

5. Young women's most valued commodity is not money, but time. Keep business reports to a minimum. Start and stop on time.

6. Let young women learn by doing. They may not lead in the same way it's always been done, but let them explore their gifts. Consider helping to pay for a young woman to attend a leadership training event to encourage her growth.

7. Qualified child care will make young women more likely to want to attend day or evening meetings.

8. Create action-oriented, hands-on ministry opportunities so young women can interact with the person benefiting from the ministry.

9. Society sets generations of women in competition with each other, but through Christ all women can find unity of purpose and mission.

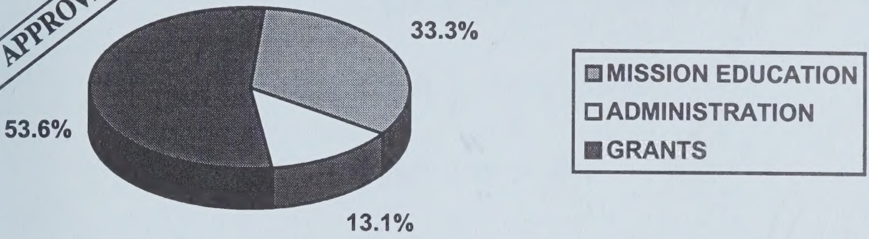
10. Shared leadership teams, short-term leadership roles, and "apprentice" leadership opportunities appeal to younger women.

Tips prepared by the North American Baptist Women's Union Young Women's Advisory Team and shared at their workshop at the 1997 NABWU Assembly. Ruth Walker-Rosewood, chair of the BWMS Gift Committee, is a member of this group, which represents a cross-section of young Baptist women.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Forward in Faith

WMS ESTIMATES FOR 1999



MISSION EDUCATION	
Salaries	$275,000
Benefits	47,000
Health/Dental	11,500
Travel exp/deputation	10,000
Program Expenses	2,500
Glad Tidings	10,000
Training events	1,000
Overseas Travel	2,000
Resources - staff	250
	$359,250

GRANTS	
Life & Mission Agency	
Mission	150,000
Regional staff	390,000
Children/youth	25,000
Outside organ. mem. fees	3,000
Christian Literature	10,000
	$578,000

ADMINSTRATION	
Salaries	$37,000
Benefits	7,100
Health/Dental	1,800
President's expenses	4,000
Annual Council Meeting	26,000
Annual Reports	5,300
Executive/Comm. expenses	10,000
5 yr. planning	2,500
General contingency	1,000
Life membership/youth pins	2,000
Office equipment	5,000
Office expenses	15,000
Audit/legal fees	10,000
Insurance/taxes	4,200
Continuing education	3,000
Consultative travel/reg.	7,000
	$140,900

TOTAL ESTIMATES $1,078,150

The estimates for expenditures for 1999 have been kept at approximately the same level as last year. It must be noted that WMS contributions still continue to drop nationally by two to three percent each year. This means the shortfall to cover expenditures is taken from the General Legacy Fund. (In 1997, the contributions by our membership were $869,823 with total expenditures of $1,169,932).

Our grants to Life and Mission for Mission, Regional Staff, and Children/Youth Position; Christian Literature and Outside Organization fees represent 53.6% of our expenditures. 33.3% is spent on Mission Education. 13.1% is spent on the administration of the Society. It is the desire of the Society to keep the ongoing programmes and grants as long as it is feasible, but this is discussed annually.

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

Reflections. . .

Remembering the Past

Thanksgiving for the Present

Hope for the Future

COUNCIL '98
May 3-6, 1998
Crieff Hills Community
Puslinch, Ontario

Remembering the Past

"There is a pillar of salt near Sodom that looks like a woman crying," Rosemary Doran said, "she was frozen in time." Rosemary's opening bible study was based on the story of Lot's wife in Genesis 19: 1-29. (There are indeed weird human-shaped pillars in the Dead Sea area.)

In table groups we then shared how we, as individuals, have cried for both the good and the bad times of the past, how we have lived in the prisons of the past and been paralyzed by thoughts of what might come. We remembered people and events that have influenced our lives in the past.

So began the first morning of Council 1998. It was a time for looking into the rear view mirrors of our own lives. Then it was time for reflecting on the past of the WMS and for remembering what we have achieved. Each group created a visual which embodies the past of WMS in terms of key people and pivotal events. The results were then posted by Monday's "blank mirror" on the wall.

"A First Look" opened Council 1998 on Sunday May 3 following dinner. Led by Program Secretary Margaret Robertson everyone celebrated the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society in worship.

The worship centred around "setting the table" for people who have laid the foundations and equipped and nurtured us for our Christian journey. Area Resource Staff brought symbols of persons who had influenced their lives.

Each person then brought paper plates to the table with the names on them of persons who had equipped them to sit at the table. Among the many mentioned were Mary Magdalene, Martha, Mrs. Ewart and Mary Whale.

At the close of the evening a cake, made by Brenda's Patterson's daughter, Elizabeth, and decorated with the Decade symbol, was cut by the President Esther Powell and enjoyed by all.

Thanksgiving for the Present

Moses, startled by the voice of God from a blazing bush, stepped out of his "velcro" sandals, for he was on holy ground. When Moses argued with God about his ability, God challenged him to throw the staff in his hand to the ground. It became a snake.

Further argument brought only reassurances that Moses was God's man to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, and that God would be with him all the way. (Exodus 3:1-14, 4:1-17)

"So it is with the WMS," Rosemary said on the Tuesday morning. "I look in the mirror and my mother looks back at me," she continued."What do you see when you look in the mirror?"

Moses saw himself as a nobody in God's presence. We may only see our weaknesses but God sees our strengths and the potential that is within each of us. God calls us, sends us, and is with us. "What have you got that God may have plans for?" she challenged

Attention was then directed to consider what the WMS looks like today, remembering that our perception might differ from that of people outside the WMS. How do we invite people in to "hang out" with us, and to experience the sparkle that we feel, if their perception is so different from ours?

Groups found a variety of ways to illustrate how they see the WMS in its present form, through skits, songs, posters. These were added to the second mirror on the wall.

Hope for the Future

Symbols of new life sprang up around the conference room following the bible study on Wednesday (based on Isaiah 43:1-2, Revelation 21:1-4). Rainbows, butterflies, kites and flowers bursting out of the ground covered the third mirror on the wall. There is a lot of life and hope in the WMS!

Rosemary spoke of how God has prepared for us things beyond our imagining and reminded us of God's promise to be with us on the journey - not pushing us, but giving us strength. Why shouldn't there be something new and different in the future? she asked. Referring to the first minute book from 1864, which she had read, Rosemary remarked, "We have already died to where they were then."

The WMS, as it was, knew death in 1925 when every auxiliary that intended to remain Presbyterian was asked to severe its connection by disbanding. Why are so many of us afraid to die to who we are in order to be what we may become?

Each group wrote a prayer for the future of the WMS on their symbol. These were pinned to the last mirror on the wall.

One Stop Shopping

Following a request from the General Assembly to enter into discussion over combining the WMS Book Room and the Resource Distribution Centre, the WMS has been working out the details with the Presbyterian Church. Trish Heidebrecht, Book Room Manager, introduced a proposal for one stop shopping, designed with the consumer in mind. Existing personnel will be brought together into one unit under the supervision of the Book Room manager. Customers will now be able to order books and other resources with one phone call and receive one bill with their order.

A joint committee will be established to supervise the process. Consignments to groups will now include other Presbyterian resources. Shipping and handling costs will be included in the pricing in the future. The new organization will be called, simply, **The Book Room**. A review will be undertaken at the end of the first year, and each year afterwards.

Motion carried: That there be a partnership between the Women's Missionary Society and the Presbyterian Church in Canada in order to provide One Stop Shopping in detail as outlined in the proposal.

Task Force on Name Change:

In line with the Five Year Plan all Presbyterials have had the opportunity to discuss a change of name for the Society. Druse Bryan, who presented the report, said that 67.8% reported no wish to change the name. However, of those, about half went on to suggest possibilities for new names.

Motion carried: That the question sent to Synodicals, Presbyterials, and local groups be
1) Do you wish to change the name of the Women's Missionary Society? Yes_ No_
2) Should the result of the final vote be "yes", choose one of the following names
A. Women's Mission Society
B. World Mission Society

Nestle Recommendation carried:
That a letter be written from Council to Nestles to express the concerns stated in the preamble.

Frances Rivers made this motion urging Council to strongly protest Nestles policy of giving free samples of formula to women in third world countries which is often misused, unhygienic and interferes with breastfeeding.

Special Guests, Visitors and Presentations

Margaret (Peggy) Ramsay, who celebrated her 90th birthday in 1997, graduated 70 years ago from the Missionary and Deaconess Training School. Following a year in Taiwan, Peggy went to Guyana for 25 years. Until a year ago she was leading a bible study class in her home congregation.

Evelyn Murdock (left) and Margaret Ramsay share reminiscences.

Doreen Morrison retired at the end of March after over 36 years of service in India. Her long service included work in Bhopal, the Abey Home in Amkhut, the silk sari plant and the weaving project at Jobat.

Pauline Brown was called 47 years ago to the Bhil area in India. She has been a director of nursing, teacher and set up mobile medical work. On May 13, Pauline was honoured by Knox College with an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Pauline Brown (right) with nursing graduates, honoured by Knox college.

David Villalonga has been studying at Guelph University. David is a veterinarian and member of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cuba who works for the PCC in Nicaragua. David spoke and showed a video of his work with the goat and rabbit project at Ebenezeer Farm, Niquinohomo. Goats from Canada are helping Nicaraguans feed themselves and provide a source of revenue for struggling families.

John Congram, Moderator of the 123rd General Assembly, was welcomed to the Council meeting. John talked about the endurance of the WMS and how it has kept the mission of the church alive. He said that one of the reasons for the survival of the WMS was that it concentrated on its goals. The purpose should be not how to maintain the WMS but how to serve the purposes of the church.

Brenda Patterson, delegate and committee member of the "Journey to Wholness", reported on its progress. Journey to Wholeness, established by the General Assembly, is gearing up to raise $250,000 to provide reconciliation and healing for aboriginal people. Brenda provided background information and an overview of directions the church has taken in recent years.

SASKATOON NATIVE CIRCLE MINISTRY

The Council offering of $1204 went towards the work of the Native Circle Ministry in Saskatoon.

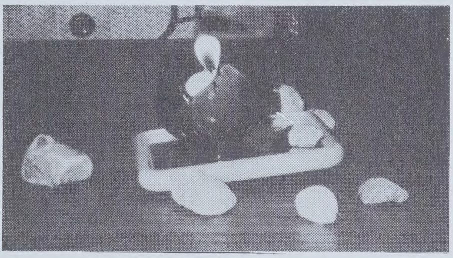
Music! Music! Music!

Music! Music! Music! with Andrew, Donald and Judee

The Tuesday evening was devoted to exploring and enjoying the new Book of Praise. Donald Anderson, Andrew Donaldson and Judee Archer Green, staff who worked on the hymn book, led in singing, historical vignettes, explanations and closing worship using various elements of the book. By the time they were finished the WMS choristers were ready to go on the road.

Regional Staffing Review

The Regional Staffing Review included concerns regarding pastoral care to professional church workers, guidelines to national funding grants, a shared vision and its implementation in the regions, and consistency with the six priorities set by General Assembly.



Light and stones for the journey.

Mission Study 1998-99

AIR CANADA
FLIGHT 117
VANCOUVER
DEPARTS 1720

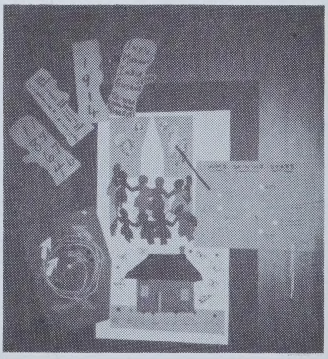
Margaret Robertson directs mission study activity.

Staff members Trish Heidebrecht, Margaret Robertson and June Stevenson introduced the upcoming studies. **"Mission Partnerships and the Presbyterian Church in Canada"**, produced by the PCC looks at what it means to be in partnership. Groups discussed what we have given to others as well as what as what has been received. A recent example was a donation from the church in Taiwan to help victims of the ice storm in Eastern Ontario and Quebec.

"Uprooted! Refugees and Forced Migrants" has been produced by Friendship Press. A skit and an activity illustrated our perception about refugees and the difficult situations they are forced into.

Focus on the Future

Bernice Shih reported on the progress of the Five Year Plan, encouraging groups to send in items for the Focus on the Future newsletter on changes they are making in their areas. She pointed out **The 3 C's** in the May newsletter: It is okay to **Change**...to do things differently! Being **Creative**...can bring surprising results! **Communicating**...by sharing our ideas and what is happening for us, we are drawn closer together!



Wall decorations.

Covenant Community with Children and Youth

Dorothy Henderson, Life and Mission staff, said that an event, Youth 2000 will follow Triennium. Dorothy showed an excellent video "Planning Inter-generational Worship" which she had made to assist adults in including children and youth in worship. This is available to churches.

Lynda Reid presented the report of CCCY, emphasizing the important liason role that Synodicals and Presbyterials have between congregations and CCCY now that the whole church is involved with the work of Children and Youth. Lynda encouraged WMS people to ask if all children and youth groups are registered with CCCY.

Motion carried: that a letter be written to the Life and Mission Agency of support and thanks for the work of Dorothy Henderson and the work done in ministry for children and youth, and support for their recommendation to General Assembly that this position be full time.

It's hard work, but fun, being artistic.

Retiring Members

Retiring members of Council Executive Rosemary Doran and Druse Bryan were thanked and presented with a gift by President, Esther Powell.

Commissioning of Officers

Brenda Patterson led a moving service of commissioning (see pages 24-25) with everyone standing in a circle. The closing benediction was "May the Great Spirit continue to bless you all."

Two new members were welcomed to Council Executive: **Jean Edmunds**, Mitchell, Ontario, and **Margaret Reynolds**, Morrisburg, Ontario.

Are we ready for the Closing Worship yet?

Closing Communion

The closing service was led by Margaret Robertson, Charlotte Brown and Rosemary Doran.

Did You Know?

WMS bulletins featuring the purpose on the front have been reprinted to allow for easier photocopying. To order or to replace previous order contact The Book Room.

Commissioning

by Brenda Patterson

Where possible, ask everyone to stand in a circle.

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:11-24

Prayer:
Creator God, whose voice we hear in the wind and whose breath gives life to the world
Hear us for we are small and weak.
We need your strength and wisdom.
Make our hands respect the things you have made.
Make us wise to understand the ways of our people.
Help us to learn the lessons you have hidden under every rock and leaf;
And let our bodies work in harmony with all creation. Amen

Leader: The images of our service of installation come from "The Sacred Tree". Our circle is continuous and unbroken and we are all equal parts of it.

From the **east** comes the capacity to watch over and guard the wellbeing of others.

A good leader learns to see things as they are connected to all other things; to have hope and trust in the vision of God.

The following three questions are for the executive/leaders:

Do you welcome the work for which you have been chosen, and will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in His promises?

I do.

The **south** is the direction of the sun. In it we find physical strength and vigor. It is a time of preparing for the future.

Do you promise to give of your strength both physical and spiritual for the uplifting of those whom you serve, encouraging and leading them in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

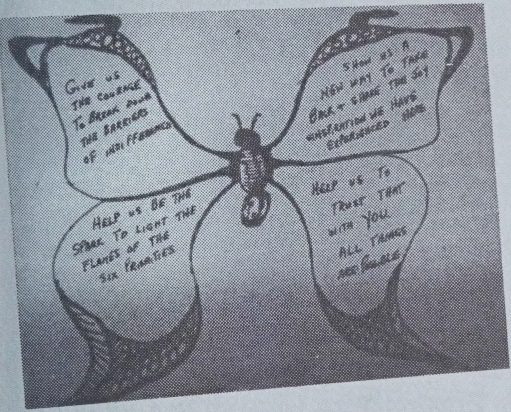
I do.

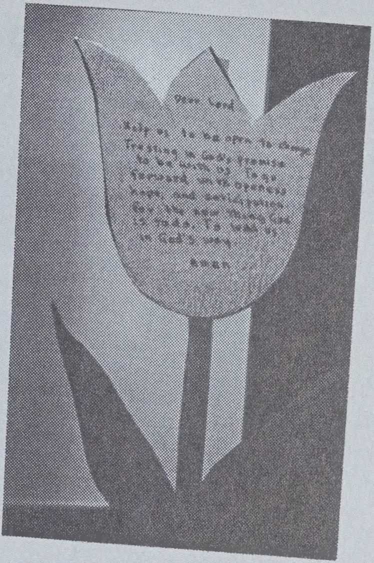
The **west** is the direction of the unknown, of dreams, meditation and prayer. The place where our faith is tested.

Will you endeavour to care for your spiritual life; spending time in prayer, meditation and study so to ensure in all your work that you remain faithful to the constitution of the WMS

# of Officers

Used at Council Executive


GIVE US
THE COURAGE
TO BREAK DOWN
THE BARRIERS
OF INDIFFERENCE
SHOW US A
NEW WAY TO TAKE
BACK – SHARE THE JOY
WE HAVE
EXPERIENCED HERE
HELP US BE THE
SPARK TO LIGHT THE
FLAMES OF THE
SIX PRIORITIES
HELP US TO
TRUST THAT
WITH YOU
ALL THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE



and the laws of our church trusting in Jesus Christ as your guide?

I will.

The **north** is the place of winter–of white snow that reminds us of the white hair of our elders. It is here that we rely on accumulated wisdom.

To all those assembled:

Do you accept these persons as chosen by God through the voice of this Society to lead us, and do you agree to encourage them, respect their decisions and follow as they guide, serving Christ who alone is head of the church?

We do.

Ending Prayer:
Almighty God, in every age you have chosen servants to lead your loyal people.
We thank you for these whom you have called to serve. Give them special gifts to do special work.

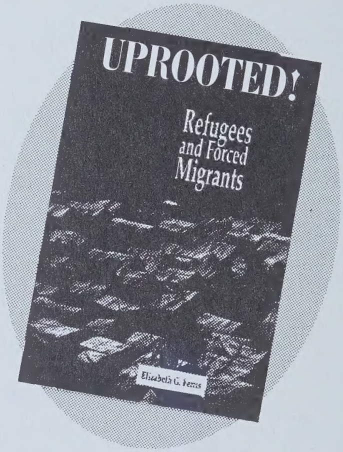
You call us all to be ambassadors of Christ entrusting us with the message of reconciling love.

Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us that together we may show your wonderful love to the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

1998-1999 Study Resources

Mission
Partnerships
And
The Presbyterian Church in Canada



A. Mission Partnerships & The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Adult & Youth Study: This six-part study explores the nature of mission partnerships—what are they? who are the mission partners of The Presbyterian Church in Canada? what are some of the challenges in partnerships? what do we learn from Scripture about partnerships? Our church's participation in projects in Canada and around the world are highlighted. G5400 $11.30

Children & Youth Study - Learning/Sharing Project: In six sessions the participants will explore partnership relationships from a biblical perspective while learning about some of our church's mission partners in Canada and overseas. Money will be raised to assist children attending a school in the dump in Guatemala City. Includes stories, games, crafts, group activities and even recipes. Useful for church school, VBS, youth groups, camps. C0400 $5.65

B. Uprooted! Refugees and Forced Migrants

Adult Study examines our Christian role and responsibility to be "the church of the stranger" to 50 million people in flight. G5500 $15.50

Leader's Guide guides discussion leaders through a series of activities that encourage advocacy for global refugees and welcoming the uprooted/stranger in our midst. G5501 $11.35

Map 'n Facts: World refugee map and statistics. G5502 $11.35

Video: No Place to Call Home (adult) 26:30 minutes. Explores causes of today's crisis of the uprooted. G5503 $52.64

Video: Make a Little Difference (youth and children, 10 years and up) 13 minutes. Introduces the children to the reality of refugees. C0401 $24.55

C. Annual Reports from Canada Ministries and International Ministries.

G5499 $3.00

Related Resources

On Frequent Journeys: Worship Resources on Uprooted Peoples edited by Rebekah Chevalier is a collection of worship resources from around the world. It includes prayers, litanies, reflections and worship outlines, interpersed with stories of uprooted people. G5435 $14.95

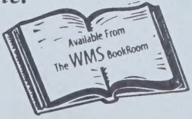
At the Border Called Hope: Where Refugees are Neighbours by Mary Jo Leddy is compelling reading about the author's work with refugees. She has lived with them, shared their pain and admired their quiet courage. It is the remarkable story of her fight for justice on behalf of those who cannot defend themselves. G3146 $18.00

The Bible and the Outsider J. Charles Hay wrote this book for the Inter-Church Committee for Refugees (ICCR) out of anger, experience and solidarity with refugees. G5946 $5.00

Generous Living: The Joys and Heartaches of Ministry Overseas by Heather Finton is the personal reflections of a Volunteer in Mission in southern Brazil. Spun around themes of bewilderment, bruises and bounty, this book provides an anecdotal look at real-life partnership with the Developing World. It includes discussion guides for those asking searching quesitons about the mission of the church. G3352 $12.95

Bridges in Spirituality: First Nations Christian Women Tell Their Stories as told to Joyce Carlson and Alf Dumont This is a book about creative, indigenous, women elders who bring hope to their communities and to the reader. G4456 $18.95

**** No extra charges for shipping or tax. Please enclose payment by cheque, account number for congregational billing, or personal Visa or Mastercard number and expiry date.***



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IN MEMORIAM

Mildred F. Whitton

Mildred F. Whitton died in St. Catherines, Ontario on April 5, 1998. Mildred was born in Upper Belvedere, Quebec. In her teens she and her family moved to Thorold, Ontario. After her marriage she and her husband, Gordon, established their home in St. Catharines.

Through the years Mildred was active in the Auxiliaries of the Women's Missionary Society at Knox, St. Giles and Scottlea Churches, all in St. Catharines. She also served a term as President of the Niagara Presbyterial, and a term as President of the Synodical of Hamilton and London. For several years she was a member of the Council Executive.

All her life Mildred was active in the Church. Before her marriage she taught in the Sunday School at her family church in Thorold. Later she served in various offices in the Sunday School, first at Knox Church and later at Scottlea Church. She and her husband were founding members of Scottlea Church in 1959.

In addition to the church, she and Gordon were active in the Canadian Bible Society. The annual Walkathon of the local branch of the Society was her special interest. She loved to work with children.

Mrs. Whitton is survived by several of her husband's relatives in the Elmvale area of Ontario.

Olive Ross Cole Pogue

Olive Pogue passed away April 1, 1998 at Stayner Nursing Home, Stayner, Ontario in her 93rd year. She is survived by her sister Marguerite Ross of Collingwood and two nephews, and predeceased by husbands Elmer Cole and Russell Pogue, two brothers and two sisters.

Olive was a primary school teacher and member of the Stayner School Board. She was an active member of Jubilee Presbyterian Church and a devoted and faithful member of Jubilee WMS group where she served very capably over the years on several offices, including that of president. She was on the executive of Barrie Presbyterial, and president of the Presbyterial from 1970-72. Mrs. Pogue was also a member of Council Executive for seven years.

HELPS FOR BIBLE READING

When in trouble or sorrow,
read John 14; Psalm 46.

When in sickness,
read James 5; Psalm 41.

When you have the blues;
read Psalm 91.

When you worry,
read Matthew 6:19-34.

MISSION
IN ACTION

******Mission in Action* **replaces "Dear Friends". Addresses of personnel may be found in the Nov/Dec issue or obtained from the Life & Mission Agency.**

David & Miriam Barrie, Kincardine, ON

March 1998–Our friend Blescoe stopped in today to tell us his examination results: 100% so far! Back at studies after being out of school for seven years, he was hired to be the Development Department Messenger last year. Every day he opens and sweeps the two offices by 7:30 a.m. and also runs the tuck shop. He was thrilled to get permission to attend classes every day to upgrade his education. Blescoe is 29.

The Lusangazi farm project is starting to take shape thanks to funding from Canada. The big expense will be providing water, since the shallow well we dug last year failed during the dry season.

In a country where jobs are really scarce, I have had no problem finding labour to prepare the land for a citrus plantation (orange, lemon, papaya, guava, mango and banana). I was really excited to find a man with a team of oxen who would plough one hectare of land at a cost of 1500 Kwacha ($100 Cdn.). Perhaps we'll host an International Ploughing Match some day!

Miriam is involved again in teaching English to the Homecraft group–a group of 12 women who are here taking a six-month community development course. Also, she has been helping at the Ekwendeni Hospital going out to the villages with mobile "under-five" immunization clinics. She'll always remember her first day as she assisted with the weighing of 250 babies!

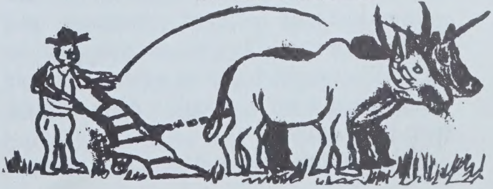
We are enjoying the usual good fruits and vegetables. Margarine and butter were unavailable for a couple of weeks, sugar prices keep moving up and down with petrol jumping to nearly one dollar per litre.

From our front door we see wonderful sunsets (second only to those in Kincardine). The Malawian people continue to amaze us with their patience, good humour and resilience, as they meet their day to day struggles.

Tonight it's our turn to host the weekly Bible Study, including folks from Malawi, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, England, the USA and Canada. We attend Sunday service in the historic Ekwendeni CCAP church where a very large congregation, many of them Secondary School students, meets and praises God in joyful worship.

We are thankful for the many who are so supportive of what we are doing in Malawi.

God bless,
David & Miriam



Denise Van Wissen
Nicaragua

November 1997–GOOD NEWS!!! I passed the Comprehensive Exam so now it's full steam ahead with the thesis. It's a HUGE relief to have gotten that exam over with, as it has haunted us since the beginning of the program. I spent a wonderful four-day weekend of recuperation! after the exam, in a little village on the Caribbean Coast of Guatemala. No noisy, exhaust-belching buses or McDonald's or anything like that here in the bustling metropolis of Guatemala City, just sea, sun, reggae music, and people calmly but joyfully going about their daily tasks, and enjoying fiestas on the weekend!

My thesis project has to do with anemia which is of great interest to me because it's a serious public health problem in Central America: 35-40% of pregnant women are anemic, and up to 55% of children one–two years old, as we confirmed with a study and intervention with SOYNICA in Managua.

Because the requirements for iron are so high for pregnant women, it's impossible that they could fulfill them with the typical Central American diet of the lower to middle classes (very low in meat, eggs, etc.). Pregnant women should thus take supplements, but this is no easy task to assure in these countries of poorly functioning health systems and lack of education. For my thesis project, then, I'm trying to determine whether certain variables (characteristics of the women such as level of education, and whether or not they're accustomed to take pills much) have an effect on their compliance with a month's dose of iron (two pills daily).

Women health volunteers and personnel from the Health Centre of a marginal area on the outskirts of the city have helped me find the pregnant women to participate in the study and accompanied me on the visits to their homes. I've really enjoyed getting back into the community again, and it's been interesting to compare the conditions with those of the poor in Nicaragua.

I'm really looking forward to returning to Nicaragua next year. I'll be working in a northern rural area, with a food security programme, exactly the focus of this Master's program, be in charge of the "Nutrition Promoters", and projects will be in cooperation with agronomists as well as other health personnel.

Again, thanks for keeping me in your prayers!

Denise

Following a few months in Canada, Denise returned to Nicaragua in June 1998.

Catherine Inglis
India

January 1998–I have completed two months in Jobat, a small "village", using the Indian term; the town is nearly 70,000 people, in central India. I was graciously taken into the home of Pauline Brown, "missionary extraordinaire", and her two dogs.

Much of my time in Jobat was spent helping out in the office of Jobat Christian Hospital. Primarily, I have been helping the overworked Medical Superintendent, Dr. Deborah Tezlo. Never before have I encountered such a dedicated Christian. Her commitment to serve tirelessly in the healing ministry has indeed been an inspiration.

I was given the wonderful opportunity of conducting conversational English classes for nursing students of the Isobel McConnell School of Nurses, which is affiliated with Jobat Christian Hospital.

My birthday was spent in beautiful Amkhut, roughly translated "valley of mangoes". Pauline Brown, coordinator of the Village Development Programme (VDP) was invited to address a youth camp organized in Amkhut by the VDP.

The "youth" came from the surrounding villages.... The singing and drumming was great and the young people's enthusiasm for bringing about change in their churches and communities was evident.

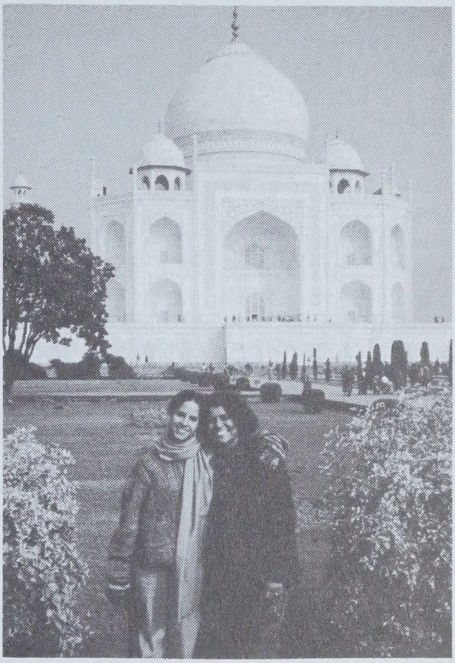
I learned that many concerns of the youth in Canadian churches are synonymous with those in India; the music, the lack of youth participation, the unheard/unheeded voice of youth.

The camp was a great forum for the youth to have and share a voice. The youth also helped to prepare Amkhut for the Jubilee Celebrations of the Vindhya-Satpura Area churches held later that month.

It was for this Jubilee that I was called to help in Jobat. I was assigned the task of compiling 100 years of the history of this "Bhil Field".

The Jubilee itself was a wonderful celebration of 100 years and though my assignment was to concentrate on the history of the region, the focus of the event was definitely on the years ahead. Rev. Dr. George Vais, representing the Moderator, asked the crowds (numbering 2000 by the third day) three questions: Where are we today?; Where do we want to go? (or where does God want us to go–this should be the same question); How do we get there?

The enthusiasm and spirit of the masses proved that these celebrations were not only for remembering the past, but for addressing these very important questions. They answered the first question with a sense of pride: "We are Bhils"–an answer that would have brought on shame 100 years ago. Where do they want to go? It was obvious that the Bhils want to continue building a strong and active church in the communities, where all the people have a voice.



- Catherine and her mother, Esther, in front of the Taj Mahal.

I left the Jubilee celebrations with a real feeling of the love and joy of the Bhil people, and a renewed vision of the Church's mission in the world.

Love,

Catherine

March 1998–I have just completed my two-month stint in Jhansi. I worked at two wonderful schools, both supported by "Presbyterians Sharing...." In January, I taught at Helen MacDonald Memorial School, an all-girls Hindi school. Luckily, the class that I was assigned to was an English-speaking section, to whom I taught Social Science.

One week later, I joined the staff of Margaret Leask Memorial School, which is an English Medium co-educational school. Here, I was assigned to teach more English to 4th class students, and Social Science to 8th. The 4th class students were eager to learn about Canada and enjoyed telling me more about themselves. The 8th class is the same age that I teach Sunday School to, so I was interested to see the comparison between the kids in India and Scarborough. Other than the language, there are few differences.

One aspect that has been particularly interesting here has been the life in the hostel. Many of the girls (students of both schools) board on the campus of H.M.M. I grew up watching episodes of "The Facts of Life" and went to an all-girls boarding school near Toronto, but life for these hostelers is very different from either t.v. or real-life in Canada.

Many of the girls come from very far away (some from neighbouring Nepal) and there are girls as young as six years old. The hostelers must help in the preparation of their own food, clean their own rooms, and do their own laundry. I've had a great chance to get to know many of these hostelers personally. They are always eager to show me dances, sing the latest songs, and I've been invited to share in birthdays with these girls. They have sewing and crafts after school, and Bible-study classes. All of this is done in rooms without air-conditioning during the very hot summer months, or heaters in the cold winter (yes, it gets very cold here).

The schools and the community in Jhansi have provided me with a truly rewarding experience which I shall never forget. I have made friendships which will last a lifetime, and memories that I will always carry with me.

Love,
Catherine

Catherine returned from India May 31 and will resume her position with PWS&D in June

The Lessard-Clousto Family
Japan

February 1998–Greetings in Christ's name! Since we last wrote, Caleb Allan Lessard-Clouston was born in Takarasuka, next to Nishinomiya, on January 13th, weighing 2.9 kg. Please pray in thanksgiving with us that everything during the pregnancy and birth went well, and that both Caleb and Wendy are healthy. Caleb is a happy and content boy whom Joel seems to adore.

Looking back over the autumn term, much has been accomplished. In November the Canadian Studies conference was a success, and on an overnight outing to our university's camp north of Kobe Michael had good opportunities to speak with and challenge some of his composition students. December was a flurry of Christmas activities, including lots of hospitality to students and others.

A particularly rewarding part of our work continues to be our English Bible Study group. Since the fall we have been working through a series on the Teachings of Jesus. For these studies, we have tried to keep the questions simple in order to focus on some of the basics of Christianity. We not only have good discussion together, but also some fun, and we are pleased to see group members showing concern for and supporting one another.

This fall several of the non-Christians

attended (our) church for the first time, invited by other members of the Bible Study. Please continue to pray that God would use this group and our relationships in it to bless and challenge both Christian and non-Christian members.

We assist people we meet in small but hopefully helpful ways. One church member brought her English conversation class for dinner in November and we heard that the teacher had attended a local Christian college.

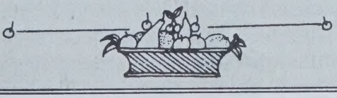
When Michael asked if she were Christian she said no, and in a follow-up letter later explained: "Oh! You asked me that why I wasn't a Christian. I'm sorry, I haven't had the big problem which I need the God's help since I was born."

How similar this view is to that of many people we've met elsewhere!

Share the Blessings

If you offer your food to the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom be like the noonday. Isaiah 58:10 (NRSV)

When we share
the blessings,
If we feed
the hungry,
If we solace
those in need,
We shall find
the light of noon,
and we shall fight
surrounding gloom.
Jean Rowat



Please pray that we might model lives here that encourage those around us here to seek the love, mercy and grace we receive from God. On a positive note, when Wendy was discussing family with her discussion group this term she was surprised to hear that we are one member's idea of a model family! May our lives and family interaction point people to God through Jesus Christ.

Last month Michael finished editing a special Japan issue of a British journal. More difficult work than anticipated (but rewarding), it will be published this summer and includes seven articles and one book review by ten scholars throughout Japan on various aspects of both Japanese and English language learning and teaching.

Please pray for Michael to have the energy and good blocks of time to work on his doctoral research. In the new term the School of Economics will have a new, younger chaplain. Please pray for Rev. Funaki, his adjustment from a church to the university, and for our relationship with and support of him. From April, Wendy will continue her discussion group and would appreciate your prayers for good opportunities to both serve and share with new and continuing members.

Thank you for your support and prayers. In our struggles, living a blessed but challenging life here, we are grateful for your partnership in our work in Japan.

Sincerely,
Michael & Wendy

Jack & Betty Geddes
Taiwan

December 1997–Once again Betty and I want to greet you.... 39 years on January 2nd we first arrived in Taiwan. We are grateful to all of you who have remembered us with calls and cards and letters, and bless God for the concern you have shown us over the year.

In 1997. Art and Sandra, Betty's brother and his wife became the first of our siblings to visit our Taiwan home. Since we had to keep working, they explored the city mostly on their own with map in hand, making friends and getting to feel at home on the buses and in the community. We went to Thailand together for two wonderful weeks at Chinese New Years, choosing an area with beautiful beaches, and did day trips out to see the country, such as visiting pineapple plantations, coconut farms where we saw the monkeys doing the work, the famous bridge on the River Kwai and a floating market. Bangkok was a qualified success.

David and Chia-ch'i have been with us most of the year, just staying in Canada long enough for Chia-ch'i to win her Canadian citizenship. While here, they make our big house their home, and have very busy teachers' lives; of course running is David's real career.

We have once again been blessed with good health, and continue to enjoy the 'growing' birthdays. In the spring, Betty found out why the prescription for her glasses didn't work anymore; the optometrist said she had senile eyes...meaning cataracts, in laymen's language. In November and December she had the lenses replaced, in her right eye first, and then in the left, by the ultrasound method. She can see once more, so it is much easier to do her books and accountants work, as well as see the dust in the house, and the bus numbers.

At the moment there are some uncertainties in our lives as we enter the year of the Lord, 1998. Jack's present contract at the General Assembly Office ends in June, and our staying in Taiwan, although agreed to by both churches, depends on a suitable job being available. Jack continues his English consultancy with the Ministry of Education and the Bible Society, as well as some tutoring; and eldership in Ming-teh church, which ends this August, takes many hours. Betty teaches two women's groups and spends three days at her Interboard Treasurer's desk. We both are involved in the Canadian Society and Tamsui historical activities, and several small study groups.

...our prayer for you is that all your relationships, with family, friends and neighbors will be warmer and closer, and that the Lord's loving hands will lead and protect you in all the exciting things that are going to happen.

Betty & Jack

Bob & Linda King
India

February 1998–We have just returned to India, new assignment, new location.... This time we are assisting at the Jobat Christian Mission Hospital, Linda once again teaching and I'm busy preparing to design and build a pharmacy dispensary at the hospital. We arrived here February 12th and were assigned to a very nice mission bungalow sitting high on a hill overlooking the mission compound.

Once again The Good Lord answered Bob's somewhat selfish prayers and [we have] running water, electricity, screens, security, new refrigerator, and, last but certainly not least, a Western toilet. We have a two-bedroom apartment in the bungalow, with large kitchen and dining area, and a very nice screened in porch on three sides.

Our hostess and director-administrator Dr. Debora Tezlo has really done a great job of preparing our little home.

[Linda] gave the first sermon as it was hospital Sunday. Tomorrow, we will be in Amkhut, where Bob will be doing the sermon. Next week we travel to Barwani, to speak there. A lot more speaking engagements planned for us here than in Indore: every week a new location, almost always with an interpreter.

I am teaching 2nd year ANM students –Auxiliary Nurse Midwives. Tests should be interesting. Some in the class have already delivered up to 13 babies. My lessons were about things that go wrong, like breech or improper positioning and so on, and the complications surrounding the pregnancy.

We settled in very quickly. This time, because I have to spend so much more time preparing for classes, Bob gets to do all the correspondence for the hospital, the Dr. and us. I haven't even had time to do lesson preparations on the computer.

God bless you one and all.

Bob & Linda

AN EVENT WORTH NOTING

Guests at the wedding of Kenneth Kim and Kennis Kitchell arrived at the Meson Panza Verde (literally, "The Green Tummy Inn" in colonial Antigua, Guatemala from a wide variety of backgrounds. Four different native languages were represented: Cakchiqu'el, English, Korean, and Spanish.

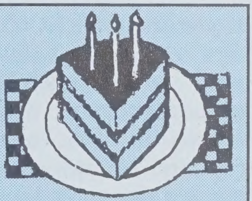
Pine needles were strewn around the colonial courtyard and candles lighted the ceremony.

Prayers of celebration and dedication were offered in Spanish, English and Korean. One of Ken's co-workers led the Lord's Prayer in Cakchiqu'el while others joined in their own languages.

Guests came from California, Calgary, Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Texas, Nicaragua, and of, course, Guatemala.

After the benediction. Ken offered a moving testimony in which he addressed each guest indvidually, saying how important the guest's presence was, and how s/he had enriched the lives of the couple. - Joe Reed

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS



August

4 - David Barrie, (Malawi) presently in Canada

9 - Aleida Villalonga, (Nicaragua) presently in Canada

9 - Ken Kim, Guatemala

15 - Urey Karen Onuoha, Nigeria (cards sent via Wynford Drive)

18 - Betty Geddes, Taiwan

18 - Daniel Schwarz, Nepal

29 - Mona Barsoum, Cyprus

September

7 - David Villalonga, (Nicaragua) presently in Canada

14 - Michael Lessard-Clouston, Japan

16 - Arlene Onuoha, Nigeria (cards sent via Wynford Drive)

16 - Denise van Wissen, Nicaragua

22 - Kevin Savage, Malawi

25 - J. Teboho Young, Malawi

25 - M. Makhotso Young, Malawi

27 - Clara Henderson, Malawi

NEWS

KCCJ ASSEMBLY

The forty-fourth General Assembly of the Korean Christian Church in Japan was convened at Fukuoka Chuo Church in Kyushu, October 21-23, with 110 commissioners from the five presbyteries.

Two significant milestones for the KCCJ took place at the assembly. First was the election of the Rev. KYUNG Hae Joong as moderator of the KCCJ, the first woman to hold this post, and the only woman to be chosen to serve a church in Asia in that capacity. Ms. Kyung was the first woman ordained a minister after revision of KCCJ's constitution in 1978 opened the way for the ordination of women as elders and ministers. The selection of a female moderator may appear to be merely symbolic. However, when we consider that in all of Asia, this should occur within the KCCJ–the church of the Korean ethnic minority in Japan that historically has experienced discrimination–we cannot help recognizing the creative will and action of our Lord, who began and continues to proclaim the rule of God from the midst of marginalized people.

HAVANA'S OLDEST PROTESTANT CHURCH RE-OPENS

Havana, 23 April (ENI)–Havana's oldest Protestant church, the First Presbyterian Reformed Church, re-opened its doors this month after 12 months of restoration work.

The church bells, which had been silent for more than 50 years, once again rang out on Palm Sunday, 5 April, as a jubilant congregation of 500 people, including the church's pastor Hector Mendez, took part in a ceremony to mark the re-opening.

"In restoring this church we are recovering part of the history of Cuban Protestantism, as its walls witnessed great acts, not just for our church, but for all Cuban Protestant ministry," Mendez said at the ceremony.

The church–then linked to the Presbyterian church in the USA–was founded in 1890, and the church building was erected in 1906 through the efforts of Joseph Green, according to the Latin American and Caribbean Communications Agency. In 1941, the Evangelical Church Council–now called the Council of Churches in Cuba–was formed at a meeting in the building.

Cuba's Protestant churches are growing at a faster rate than the larger Roman Catholic Church, which faces an acute shortage of priests and bore the brunt of Fidel Castro's previous opposition to religion.

According to a report in Religion News Service, published in Washington DC, more than 300,000 Cubans belong to the nation's 54 Protestant denominations, which operate 1666 churches and hundreds of home-based congregations. More than 700 churches have been established since 1992, when the Cuban government jettisoned its official "atheist" status and adopted the official status of a "secular" state. (By comparison, about 40 percent of Cuba's 11 million people are baptized Catholics, but only about 400,000 regularly attend church, RNS reports.)

• Hector Mendez has been awarded the 1998 E. H. Johnson Award, which is presented annually by the E. H. Johnson Memorial Trust Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The award is made for outstanding contributions on the "cutting edge of mission". In a letter announcing the award, Dr. Marjorie Ross, the trust fund's secretary, said that the award was for Mendez's "faithful and courageous witness" throughout his ministry in Cuba. The award has no monetary prize, but recipients are invited to Canada to address the denomination's general assembly at a special luncheon.

MURDER IN GUATEMALA

The murder in Guatemala of Roman Catholic Bishop Monsignor Juan Gerardi, director of the Archbishop's human rights office took place late in the evening of Sunday, April 26, following the release on Friday, April 24 of the church's report of human rights abuses during the civil war *Recovering the Historical Memory –Guatemala never again.*

This assassination has precipitated a crisis in Guatemala. Trust in the government and especially in the military, has been dealt a severe blow. The report issued by Monsignor Gerardi identified the security forces as being responsible for 79% of the 37,000 cases of violence perpetrated against the Guatemalan people in the early 1980's. The report found that only 9% of the cases were traced to the Mayan insurgency forces to whose activity the government was responding, with the rest unexplained. Many suspect that some member of the Armed Forces, perhaps now retired, is responsible for killing Monsignor Gerardi, with covert support from Security Forces, and the Guatemalan government.

Prayers are requested for:

~ the people of Guatemala, that this latest outrage will strengthen their resolve to work for a new society where differences are resolved by peaceful means, and not through violence.

~ human rights workers, that they may be protected from danger and intimidation.

~ leaders of the oppressed Mayan people, who are especially vulnerable.

~ Ken Kim, his wife, Kennis, Alison Crosby, and their colleagues, both Guatemalans and those from the international community who work in solidarity with them.

Ken Kim, of International Ministries staff, who is working with the Mayan Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church of Guatemala, shared these reflections:

On Friday night, 48 hours before (the Monsignor's) death, I was present with The Very Reverend Robert Smith, former moderator of The United Church of Canada, who was representing ICCHRLA (Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America) at the presentation of the REMHI project at the Metropolitan Cathedral in the capital. The highlight was at the end of the evening when the bishops presented to representatives of the victims of the violence a copy of the final report. The air was electric with people seeing the moment as a truly momentous occasion. It was unbelievably frank, the report which blamed the army for over two-thirds of all the violence which permeated the nation for over three decades.

The report or the recuperation of the historical memory had as its goal to return voice to the majority of Guatemalans who for 36 years had to keep quiet, so that "Never Again these atrocities will be repeated", (quote by Monsignor Gerardi).

Yesterday I was numb, sad and depressed that Guatemala has never failed to remind me how fragile life is and the price that peace-makers must pay in that struggle. Monsignor Gerardi's death clearly reminded us all once again that peace is something which must be built step-by-step and that it cannot be achieved by the signing of an agreement. The church of God must play both a prophetic role in promoting and building peace, but as well a pastoral role, in recognizing the sacrifices of thousands of nameless victims. Their stories must be remembered so that the healing may begin in Guatemala.

Pray for our brothers and sisters in the world who have sacrificed their lives, as Jesus Christ did, for the love of others. The death of Monsignor Gerardi is just another violent reminder that the road is still ahead of us. Many believe that his murder is an act of intimidation with the goal to change the peace process. We hope that his death will only cement an irreversible peace process that most Guatemalans desire.

"*I*"-Witness

More than fifty years ago, when I was expecting my first baby, I read in the obituary column that my doctor had died suddenly! My baby was to be born in three weeks time. What was I to do?

I decided to contact the doctor who attended members of my family before I was married. I was given an appointment that same week. The doctor gave me a thorough examination, told me to go home and rest, that he would deliver my baby when the time came. Then he called my husband into his office and told me to wait in the waiting room. As I impatiently waited, I wondered what his wish to see my husband was all about.

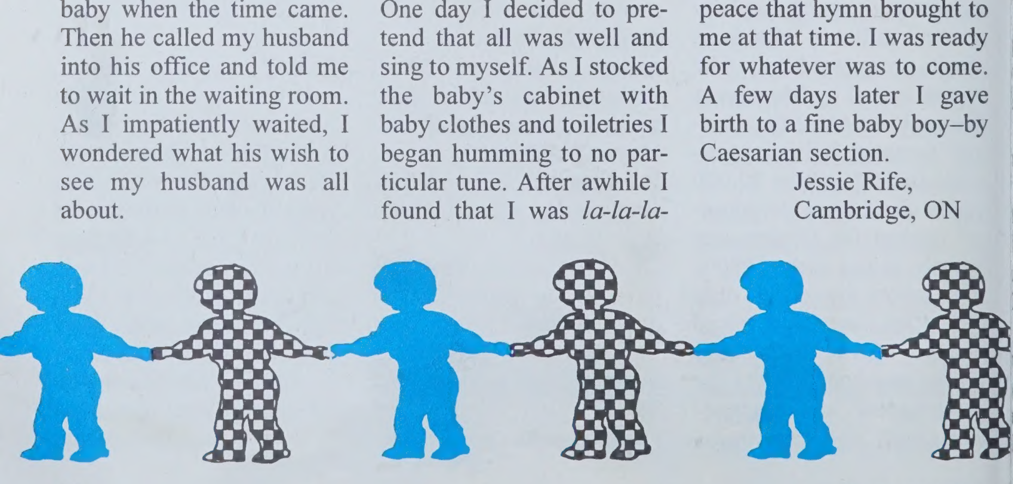
On the twenty-mile-trip home my husband would only say that it was nothing important, that the doctor just wanted to meet him. I thought it strange that the doctor would want a ten-minute social visit with my husband while there was still a room full of waiting patients. At home, the more I thought about this the more worried I became. Was there something wrong?

Two weeks passed and I was almost sick with worry. One day I decided to pretend that all was well and sing to myself. As I stocked the baby's cabinet with baby clothes and toiletries I began humming to no particular tune. After awhile I found that I was *la-la-la-ing* to a tune that seemed somewhat familiar to me. Finally I was actually singing the words to a forgotten hymn I had learned as a child and hadn't heard or sung for years. The words were coming back to me as I sang, "God will take care of you".

"Be not dismayed whate'er betide
God will take care of you.
Beneath his wings of love abide
God will take care of you."

I will never forget the peace that hymn brought to me at that time. I was ready for whatever was to come. A few days later I gave birth to a fine baby boy–by Caesarian section.

Jessie Rife,
Cambridge, ON



IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

The 84th Annual Meeting of **British Columbia** Synodical was held at First Church in New Westminster, BC on March 28th. Rev. Elizabeth McLagan, Synodical President, welcomed everyone. Rev. Ted Siverns conducted the worship based on the theme *Partners in Change* (Isaiah 40:31).

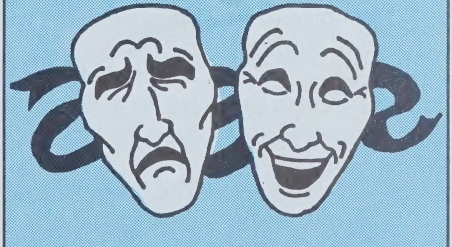
Dorothy McKeown led the "In Memoriam" Service and Grace Murdoch did some brisk business at her book table.

The afternoon session opened with singing led by Betty Siverns, followed by a Mission Game presented by Brenda Fraser from West Point Gray. Janet Tremblay, Regional Staff, then brought us up to date on Missions.

The installation of officers was conducted by Tam Corbett and courtesies were given by Laurie Jackson.

After supper guest speaker, Esther Powell, President of Council Executive, treated us to a very inspiring and encouraging message on using the gifts God has given us.

The Synodical Society of Hamilton and London



Theme: "Much Ado About Missions"

Much Ado About Missions was the theme of **Hamilton-London** Synodical held in Knox Church, Stratford, Ontario April 21-22. President, Helen McLeish, presided.

Special guest, Helen Kuo from Taiwan brought greetings from the Taiwan Presbyterian Church, mentioning that after 126 years the first Presbyterian missionary, Dr. MacKay from Harrington, Oxford County is a legend there.

Margaret Robertson, WMS Program Secretary, also told of her experiences in Taiwan and Japan.

Esther Powell, president of Council Executive, spoke about her trip to India to celebrate the Jubilee of Rev. and Mrs. Buchanan's arrival to give medical assistance to the Bhil people in Northern India.

Each celebration began with dance accompanied by drums and shakers. Their radiant faces showed the love of Christ as they placed leis of flowers or peanuts around the necks of visitors.

Erin Crisfield, Regional Staff, led a Bible study on the feeding of the five thousand.

Reports were given by Rev. Gwen Brown, director of Camp Kintail and Spencer Edwards, youth consultant. Trish Heidebrecht, Book Room manager reviewed books.

Niagara, Sarnia and Hamilton Presbyterials led the worship services.

Head table guests included Dan Matheson, Stratford deputy mayor, Rev. Evelyn Carpenter, moderator of Southwestern Ontario Synod, Rev. John Zondag, moderator Huron-Perth Presbytery and Dr. David Thompson, minister, Knox Church, Stratford.

The evening entertainment was a kitchen band of Huron-Perth Presbyterial members.

The 1998-99 executive was installed by Esther Powell.

PRESBYTERIAL

The Annual Meeting of **Prince Albert**

Presbyterial was held in St. Paul's Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Theme of the meeting was *Joy*.

Special guest and speaker was Esther Powell, President of Council Executive, who showed slides of mission work in India.

Others taking part in the program were Rev. George Yando, minister of St. Paul's Church, Phyllis MacKay of Prince Albert, and Margaret Wilson and Bernice Shih both of Saskatoon.

Presbyterial officers were installed by Esther Powell.

New Faces in Mission was the theme of the 84th Annual Meeting of **Superior** Presbyterial held in First Church, Thunder Bay on Saturday, February 28.

Those attending were welcomed by the President Brenda Patterson. She introduced special guests (two new faces in mission) Margaret Robertson, Program Secretary, and Charlotte Brown, Executive Secretary, from the WMS office in Toronto; and Dr. Ray Hodgson, Regional Resource Person.

While the two visitors from Toronto had much information to share with those present, their overall message was that we must be prepared for the challenge of change. (One example, is the formation by the Presbyterian Church in Canada of the Covenant Community for Children and Youth, on the recommendation of the WMS which no longer has a Children and Youth Secretary.)

Lunch was served by the Evening Guild of First Church.

The afternoon session was opened by a Memorial Service presented by women from St. Andrew's, Thunder Bay. Dr. Hodgson conducted the Installation Service.

The Annual Meeting of **Edmonton-Peace River** Presbyterial was held on March 24 at Mill Woods Church, Edmonton, Alberta. President, Margaret Moar conducted the meeting.

Worship Service was taken by Catherine Leadbetter and Alison Playdon of Mill Woods, based on the Easter Worship Service in March/April 1998 Glad Tidings.

The new officers were installed by Esther Powell. Closing Worship was conducted by First Presbyterian WMS Group.

After lunch our speaker was Esther Powell, President of Council Executive, who spoke and showed slides on her recent trip to India for the 78th Anniversary of the Jobat Christian Hospital.

There was an Evening Session at Mill Woods Church. Rev. Ken Wheaton introduced the Korean Church Choir who sang beautifully in their own language.

Esther Powell's address was entitled "Reflections". She pointed out there are stones one can remove, such as fear and discouragement, thus giving our individual attention to the work of the Church and the WMS.

Ann Paterson thanked the speaker and led in a Hymn Sing. Rev. Ken Wheaton gave the benediction.

The 84th Annual Meeting of **Montreal** Presbyterial was held at Cote des Neiges Church, Montreal, QC on March 21, 1998. Presiding over the meeting was President Mary Lou Johnston.

Greetings were extended for the host church by Jan Manson. Margaret Morrison, a long time member, gave a history of the church. Worship was led by Rev. William Manson who spoke of conditions of fruitfulness, and about having a vital relationship with the Lord.

After a business meeting and the reading and discussion of reports, an exercise break was led by Grace Thornley-Brown. Lottie Sutherland, Synodical President brought greetings.

Guest speaker was Regional Staff Ann Blane. Her theme was Jubilee 1998: Impressions upon Revisiting India. She spent part of her childhood there as her parents were missionaries, and she was able to visit a large area in Northern India.

After a very nice lunch we had a joyful singalong led by Joycelyn MacKay with Jan Manson at the piano.

We then watched a video: "Who will roll away the stone" in relation to the Ecumenical Decade. Ann Blane installed the officers for 1998-99 and gave the benediction.

The Annual Meeting of **Glengarry** Presbyterial was held in St. John's Church, Cornwall, on March 13th. Sheila Paterson presided, assisted by Jean Canham, secretary. Lottie Sutherland reported for Synodical.

Ann Blane, Regional Staff, reported on Council. An impressive worship service was conducted by Martintown WMS. Following lunch, time spent browsing through books and a hymn sing, Everett Rush sang "My Task".

Ann Blane, speaker of the day, was introduced by Peg Ferguson. Ann, who had been born in India and lived there for 12 years, recently returned to India with a group of church representatives who were anxious to see what improvements had been made in education and medical services in the last half century.

The speaker was thanked by Annabelle Hartrick and the meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction.

Henny Donkersteeg presided over the spring meeting of **Brockville** Presbyterial held in Brockville, Ontario. Donna Wilson of the Winchester group conducted devotions on the theme of the meeting, *Giving Your All.*

Colleen Smith of Ottawa, coordinator for Youth in Mission, continued the theme and summarized her responsibilities with this outreach program, telling of some recent projects undertaken by Youth in Mission. Immediate past president of the Presbyterial, Margaret Reynolds, was presented with an honorary life membership pin.

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and fishes, loaves and fishes,
It's all about being nutritious.
So I tell you sisters
"It is God's plan
To feed humans."
We can do it all together.

Sung to the tune of Love and Marriage. Written by Lottie Sutherland for the study "Loaves and Fishes."

Reaching Out was an appropriate theme for this year's Annual Meeting of **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial. The meeting took place in Amos Church, Dromore, Ontario on April 8 with eighty-five women in attendance.

Special guests were Erin Crisfield, Regional Staff, who brought greetings; and Trish Heidebrecht from the WMS Book Room in Church Offices who presented some of the latest books available.

The morning's business session was followed by an enlightening and thought provoking workshop on the use of inclusive language led by Carol Mackowski. She challenged the group with questions such as: "How important is the use of inclusive language?" "Will the changes affect our relationship with God and others?"

In the afternoon, guest speaker Rev. David Smith, Executive Director at Evangel Hall in Toronto, held our attention. He spoke of the purpose and various mission projects taking place at Evangel Hall. He stressed that as they reached out to others they were to "be an inspiration" to them as well.

The officers for 1998-99 were installed

by Rev. Pearl Vasarhelyi of Amos Church. Outgoing president Pat Carpenter was presented with a gift and was thanked for her years of service.

The day concluded with a meaningful "In Memoriam" and Worship Service conducted by the Tiverton WMS. Communion was conducted by Rev. Vasarhelyi.

Huron-Perth Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting February 20, 1998, in St. Andrew's Church, Stratford. The theme for the meeting was *Mission Possible.*

President Jean Edmunds, gave the call to worship. Devotions were presented by Eunice Bissett, Madeleine Edward and Margaret Keith of Goderich.

Welcome words from St. Andrew's WMS were given by Bernice Richards, from St. Andrew's session and congregation by Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper and from Perth Presbytery by moderator Rev. John Zondag.

Erin Crisfield, Regional Staff, conducted a workshop on the theme.

The afternoon session began with a lively singalong conducted by Shirley Aicheson with Eunice Bissett at the piano.

Opening remarks were given by Jean Edmunds. Anna Mae Stevens of Motherwell-Avonbank, accompanied Bessie Thompson and Helen Nethercott in two lovely duets.

Afternoon devotions were given by Seaforth members, Margaret Sharpe and Barbara Rivers.

A memorial service was presented by Exeter members and roses were placed with a lighted candle in honor of members now deceased.

Quiet
Peaceful solitude,
reflections on gratitude,
contemplative joy.
Haiku by Betty Ho

Shirley Aitcheson introduced guest speaker Stuart Smale of St. Marys. He gave a most interesting account of mission projects he has been involved with, including the goat project in Nicaragua.

The roll call was answered with an outreach project we support.

Pat White presented appreciation certificates to two groups who have disbanded during the year, Atwood Elma and Shakespeare St. Andrew's. Words of appreciation were given by Jean Peebles and Jeanette Laing.

Erin Crisfield installed the executive for the coming year.

LOCAL

A taste of Cuba in the March break. Who would expect such an experience at a Presbyterian WMS meeting in **West Lorne**? It's true.

Eight members and four guests enjoyed a meal of black bean soup, bitter orange glazed chicken, stuffed steak, cabbage and tomatoes, black bean salad, emparadas, and chocolate cake. This was prepared and served by the hostess, Heather Morton.

A quiz made us more aware of conditions in Cuba. Two of the guests, Jean Siddall and Thelma McGuire, had been to Cuba recently. Showing photos and crafts of the island, they told of their impressions while on holiday there.

Each year, Heather serves a meal in keeping with a Mission Study Theme.

Morrisburg, Knox WMS Family Night was held Thursday, April 16, 1998. Ruth Kirkwood welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the call to worship. Marina Simpson conducted the worship service titled "Forgiveness" and spoke to the children based on scripture from Ephesians 4:31, 32. The Explorers then took up the offering. Ten young members of the COC performed a skit "The crazy boat ride" followed by presentations of awards and certificates to all the Explorers.

Money presentations from the COC and Explorer groups to Jan Wood treasurer of Knox WMS were given for a Presbyterian Church project in Mozambique, famine relief in North Korea and for Mission Outreach. The COC then performed another skit "Do It" based on Matthew 25:35-40.

Some lively entertainment was enjoyed by all the children, parents and friends when Pastor Jo and Sandra Barkley Probst taught everyone some new songs and handed out "musical" instruments to all the children to keep time to the beat of the music!

The Explorers also entertained everyone with their skit "Cookin' Cool", the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego which was followed by presenting certificates to all the COC group.

Rev. Greg Blatch closed with the benediction.

Irene Brundige Nygaard Llewellyn died on December 20, 1997. Born in Miami, Manitoba. Irene attended Regina Public, High and Normal Schools, and the Universities of Saskatchewan and of Alberta.

Irene began her life-long involvement in the Presbyterian Church attending services and Sunday School with her parents, who were active in Northside Church, Regina. In 1937 she married R. Nygaard who died in 1969. She was married in 1972 to L. W. Llewellyn who died in 1978. She had one daughter, Beverley and one step-son, Donald.

Irene had 32 years teaching experience. Her church activities included CGIT and teaching Sunday School. She formed her first class of seven into a CGIT group, which grew to four groups with 30 members in 1937. When her girls were 17 they formed the Laura Pelton Auxiliary. Irene was also Home Helpers Secretary for Regina Presbyterial.

- An active member of St. Andrew's WMS, Streetsville, for over 60 years, Mrs. Lydia Treanor celebrated her 100th birthday on October 29, 1997. She faithfully attended Brampton Presbyterial Executive and general meetings until recently. Lydia is pictured above with her younger brother, Mr. Whitfield.

She retired in Abbotsford, British Columbia in 1969 where she attended Calvin Church, was a member of the Ladies Guild and served as Second Vice-President of Westminster Presbyterial.

In 1971, Irene wrote a history of the first twenty-five years at Calvin Church in Abbotsford. She was on the Board of Managers and an active member of the WMS.

A Service of Remembrance was held for **Catherine Thomson**, Saturday, March 7, 1998. Catherine was a faithful supporter of First Presbyterian Church, and the WMS since 1947.

Catherine's role in the church was that of a quiet, very pleasant servant. She taught grade two in Sunday School with Marion Rae. There are young people around the church today, now touching 43 years of age, who have fond memories of these two teachers.

Catherine used her secretarial skills to record the minutes of the Sunday School meetings. She was a member of the Young

People's Group, the Young Women's Group, as well as of the Hazel Reavley Group, and of the WMS. Once again, Catherine held the position of secretary, covering all three levels of the Society in her total WMS career. Many of her minutes are in our history records, preserving for us her inimitable expression of interesting anecdotes.

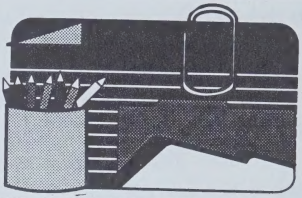
During W.W.II, Catherine served in the Canadian Air Force in a clerical role, and continued in this role in the offices of the Veteran's Affairs in Edmonton.

Catherine had a marvellous sense of humour, and a hearty laugh, which carried her through the years of her life.

As Catherine's elder, I have enjoyed many a pleasant visit. Recently, her closing words were on this bent, "I look on some interesting parts of my life, but the best part is those years I have been associated with my church. I have had the privilege of listening to the words of great preachers, who taught me more than I ever learned in school or in the Air Force. I have made such good friends through those years.... I cherish the memories."

– Excerpted from a tribute to Catherine Thomson by Norma Proudfoot, Edmonton, Alberta.

– Left to right: (bottom) Isabel McRae and Janet McCrae; standing Helen McCrae and (right) Catherine.



CIRCULATION NEWS

Does everyone in your group subscribe to the Glad Tidings magazine? How do you promote the magazine in your congregation? We would be interested in hearing some of your ideas that could be shared with others.

There are many ways of promoting the magazine. One is to give a gift subscription to someone joining your church, to youth or children's leaders, music director, members of Session, etc. It is also helpful to have extra copies on hand to give out to newcomers, younger women and youth. The magazine is not just for WMS members; it is a mission outreach for everyone.

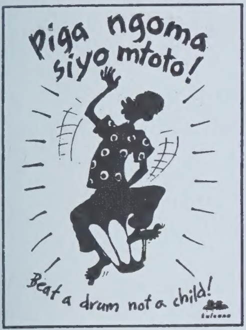
If your group has disbanded, you can still subscribe to the magazine. All you need to do is write to our office in the fall along with a cheque for $10.00 payable to Glad Tidings. When corresponding please include a label from a recent Glad Tidings magazine so that we can make sure that your subscription is properly processed.

A few times this year our correspondence has gone to PWS&D or the Book Room. These are two separate departments who contribute items for the Glad Tidings. So please make sure cheques and correspondence are addressed to GLAD TIDINGS.

Also, do not forget to send us the name of your Glad Tidings Secretary/contact person by mid-July to ensure that we send the summer mailing to the proper source. (See May/June Circulation News).

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

Presbyterian World Service & Development


Piga ngoma siyo mtoto!
Beat a drum not a child!
kuleana

PWS&D's partner, *kuleana,* discovered most street children saw living on the street as their only alternative—they were no longer able to tolerate one more beating or burning or yelling or unwanted sexual advance at home. Helping street kids also required changing the situations that made them leave home. So *kuleana* has developed an extensive education program which teaches kids and adults in Tanzania to respect children's rights so that all children can develop their full potential—free from hunger, want, neglect and exploitation.

PWS&D depends on your donations as it receives no funds from*Presbyterians Sharing*. . . . .With matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency of 3:1 for development programs and 4:1 for emergency relief, your donation goes a long way. *To make a donation or for more information contact:*

PWS&D 50 Wynford Drive. North York, Ontario. M3C 1J7
phone (416) 441-1111 or toll-free from across Canada 1-800-619-7301
fax (416) 441-2825 e-mail: pwsd@presbyterian.ca

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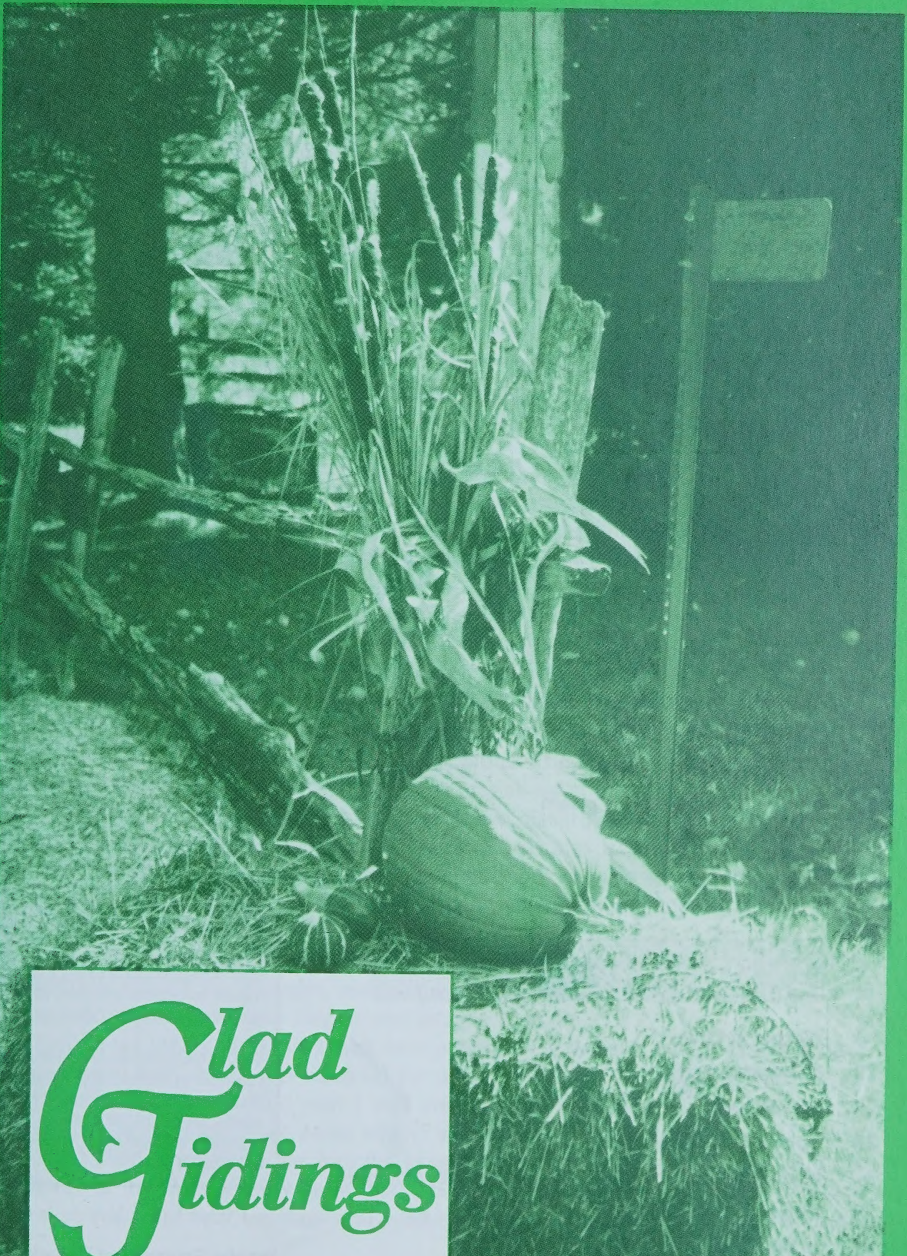

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September/October 1998

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GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

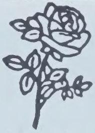
GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Inside: Ecumenical Decade
Thanksgiving Worship

Cover Photo: L. June Stevenson

October 1998



Remembering Autumn...

Autumn and preservation seem intertwined like grape vines in the garden. No season evokes such poignancy as fall. Even in memory, I can hear the crackle of leaves beneath my feet; and visualize the rich reds and golds of the leaves. I can feel the firm texture of squash and pumpkin and smell tomato sauce simmering on the stove and wood fires smoking in the backyard. Most of all, I can sense the inexorable shift of nature from the lush greenery of summer to the powdery gold of autumn, and the drying of summer flowers to form a protective blanket for earth.

Long before the new pencils became shortened with use, our public school class was out gathering leaves. The search began in our own gardens and extended along the street and into the woods. Finding a sample of all the most common leaves was our goal. In the neighbourhood where I grew up in Cornwall, the streets were named after trees: Elm, Maple, Pine and Hickory. (We filled our pockets with hickory nuts on our forays, later to smash them on the pavement with a large rock, and eat the sweet fruit.) When our collection was complete, mother would get out the wax paper and supervise the preservation of the leaves. To this day I occasionally come across a withered leaf in an old volume.

Then there were the weeds: dandelion, milkweed, Queen Anne's Lace and pigweed. The air filled with autumn flurries as we split the milkweed pods and blew the seeds into the air. The weeds were dried and taped on sheets, too bulky to put into notebooks.

As we were busy gathering, the squirrels scurried across the lawns and up the trees, their cheeks bulging with winter provisions. The farmers made haystacks and the apple growers piled ripe red Macintosh apples into barrels.

The leaves crumbled as the notebooks were discarded and replaced with new ones. The weeds were thrown out before the Christmas tree was up. Some of the apples, stored in the basement, made their way into our Christmas stockings. The rest were gone by February. We could not preserve them any more than we could stop the inevitable march of the seasons

I always feel nostalgic in the autumn, like the dilemma I find myself in when something around me changes, moves away or dies. Like the grains of sand in a timer, life slips through my fingers and returns to earth.

Just as we take courses and start new programs in autumn so the earth changes and renews itself. Yet, I am thankful for the preservation of all that is meaningful and good in our lives. This year I will sweep away the clutter in my life like the leaves on the path and store away what I won't need until the first breath of spring air. And I will carry with me into the longer nights and shorter days of winter the richness of my faith and my belief that, *As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.* Genesis 8:22

Written in Love
June.

Are We Ready To Change The Wineskins?

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skin and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. **(Luke 5: 37, 38 NRSV.)**

by Anne Saunders

"He Says, She Says" Dialogue

How has the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women affected Canadian Presbyterians? There were no answers to this question at the "He Says, She Says" lunch-time gathering at our national church offices on April 8, 1998. In fact, the gathering sparked more questions than answers. Perhaps the first question was "Has the Decade had any affect at all?"

In a building with about 60 employees and centrally located in the Presbytery of East Toronto, only a dozen people gathered to hear from Norah McMurtry, Coordinator of the National Ecumenical Decade Group, and Bob Shantz, chaplain at the University of Toronto and a member of the National Ecumenical Decade Group.

Of the two men in the audience, one was a member of our church's Decade Coordinating Group. As June Stevenson, Coordinator of the Group, said in her introductions, this event was one of many activities that the group has organized since it was set up by General Assembly in 1990. However, according to June many of their initiatives have had the same sort of minimal response.

> "During the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women, we as a church will rise up and identify the obstacles to women's full and active participation in church and society. We will work to remove the obstacles. We will affirm women's perspectives and contributions. We will pluck up and break down, build and plant. We will participate with God in transforming the world. We will say to each other, 'We will roll the stone away.'"
>
> —World Council of Churches Easter Message prepared for the opening of the Decade, Easter 1988.

A "fashion show" starring some of 50 Wynford's hidden talent began the "He Says, She Says" program. With good-natured humour it reviewed women's struggle to be contributing members in society from biblical days to the present. In the dialogue presentation that followed, Norah provided the background information on the aims of the Decade, some of the results collected at mid-Decade meetings held around the world, and some of the activities of Canadian churches.

Bob reflected theologically and then spoke personally about experiences that had deepened his understanding of the issues. Their dialogue provided the backdrop for the discussion that followed.

No one argued with Bob's summary of the related theology. Men and women are both made in God's image, both part of creation. But many cultures and religions, including our own, have silenced—and continue to silence–half of God's creation. By doing so, our society and our churches not only limit the contributions of women, but they also limit the contributions of God's Spirit.

The discussion turned directly to our own experiences in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. How does a highly structured institution, like our Church, change to a less top-down leadership style–to an inclusive, cooperative, participatory, or consensus style? How can people who only know the status quo—whether resistant or open to change–learn and support one another in the necessary process of change? How do we change the power structure?

While participants expressed hope that some progress had been made in the past ten years, most spoke with discouragement feeling that real change–enabling both men and women to be included as equal partners–is far in the future. One participant pointed out that the Decade has increased the awareness of Canadian Presbyterians; and while this alone does not bring about results, it may be a necessary step without which change may not happen.

In closing, Norah shared the advice of one participant of a recent meeting of Asian women. The woman had urged people to focus on the points of contention and anger, believing that churches need to identify and fully explore the most challenging issues.

Such a process in The Presbyterian Church in Canada has traditionally been controlled by the existing power structure. How can exploration of issues lead to constructive change unless some initial, basic changes are made to the ground rules and control methods? Are we ready to replace the old ways of dealing with contentious matters in our Church with new ways? Or will we find ourselves pouring “new wine into old wineskins” only to see the new wine spilling as the old wineskins burst?

Our Church and the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women

In October 1990, a sub-committee of the Ecumenical Relations Committee of our Church was established called the Ecumenical Decade Coordinating Group. Its members represent the various agencies of our Church and the group was mandated to: monitor the progress of the Decade within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, monitor the progress of the Decade within the wider ecumenical community, and keep the Decade before our Church.

Members of the Decade group have met regularly and participated in a number of activities including:

- Coordinating Presbyterian participation in the Decade through various departments, boards and committees of our Church
- Sponsoring the Mid-Decade Conference at Ewart College
- Planning activities around the UN Women’s 1995 Conference in Beijing
- Human rights work of the United Nations in Geneva
- Participating in the World Council of Churches 1996 Conference on Violence

against Women
- Commissioning work of art entitled "Woman... you are set free" for the church offices, for a poster and for a cover of Presbyterian Record
- Production of bulletin inserts and articles in publications of The Presbyterian Church in Canada including Mission Update, Presbyterian Record, Glad Tidings and PWSDevelopments
- Encouraged the production of related publications and study resources, or made them available to our Church
- Coordinating a survey on the life and work of women in member churches of World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)
- Co-sponsoring the 1994 reception for Vera Chirwa, lawyer and human rights activist in Malawi
- Coordinating arrangements for ecumenical visitor, Maha Samara, from the Middle East.
- Participating in the November 1996 Re-Imagining Conference in Minneapolis.
- Promotion of the Daring Hope national gathering

World Council of Churches' Aims for the Decade

Empowering women to challenge oppressive structures in the global community, their country and their church.
Affirming–through shared leadership and decision-making, theology and spirituality–the decisive contributions of women in churches and communities.
Giving visibility to women's perspectives and actions in the work and struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.
Enabling the churches to free themselves from racism, sexism and classism; from teachings and practices that discriminate against women.
Encouraging the churches to take actions in solidarity with women.

For more information about Decade activities and resources of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, contact the coordinator of our Church's Decade Group June Stevenson at 441-1111, Ext. 323.

"Women are a majority in most congregations and participate strongly in the spiritual and liturgical life of the church. They are active in parish life through a wide variety of lay ministries-diakonia, fund-raising, teaching and counselling. They gain strength and satisfaction from all these kinds of participation even if their contribution is not always recognized and they are unable to attain leadership in these areas…

Most discouraging was clear evidence that women are marginalized by their own church structures…All the teams noted women's lack of or limited access to decision-making processes-and thus power–in their churches; and some church leaders insisted that church constitutions cannot be changed. This situation both reflects and promotes a similar imbalance of power in society."

(From the Living Letters report that compiles the findings of 75 team visit to 330 churches, 68 national councils and about 650 women's groups worldwide. Published by WCC Publications.)

Are you confused by the issues?
Frustrated by the devalued role of women in your church? Wondering if our sons and daughters will be able to participate equally and fully as adults in a church community? Interested in learning more about what the Bible says about the issues of inclusivity, gender equality, power that empowers and does not diminish? There is a number of excellent resources available for individuals or groups who wish to explore the issues:

Use study material like the *Inclusive Language Workshop* (produced by WMS) or Churches in Solidarity with Women mission study 1992-93.

Use a story, article or sermon from one of the following resources for the meditation at a group gathering: *Living Letters* (stories gathered from mid-Decade meetings held around the world), *Counting the Women* (sermons by women in The Presbyterian Church in Canada), *Images of Ourselves* (stories of Canadian women about their faith, lives, and hopes).

Read about women in the Bible and discover the truth in these stories for men and women of our time (e.g. *Clothed with the Sun* by Joyce Holliday, *Just a Sister Away* by Renita J. Weems, *Women of Faith and Spirit* by Margaret Wold).

Listen to the music or read the prayers and lyrics of modern Christian female artists like Linnea Good, Miriam Therese Winter, Natalie Sleeth, Ann Weems.

View and reflect on a video like *What Decade?* (a 9-minute video about some of the issues addressed during the Decade).

Attend the national gathering *Daring Hope* (Guelph, Ontario, August 26-30, 1998) or the regional gathering in Sackville, New Brunswick (1998) to experience and share in celebrations of hope for the future.

For more information about these resources and others contact The Book Room at 1-800-619-7301 or 416-441-1111.

Subscribe to:

GROUNDSWELL

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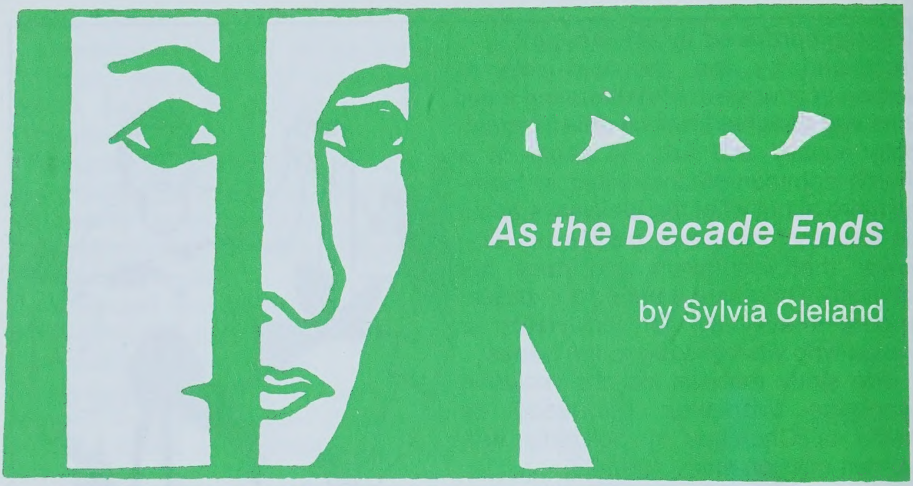


As the Decade Ends

by Sylvia Cleland

With teeth clenched, I replaced the phone.
The Interim Moderator's parting words stuck in my mind,
an irritating prickle,
"Too bad you cannot move to another Presbytery."
I vow not to think about men who could not/would not move,
Those whose "network" has placed them where they wished to be.

My self-esteem once more deflated,
I open a carefully hoarded packet of notes and letters.
And I treasure phrases that recall times
when I rejoiced in another's blessings;
or struggled with someone through pain and grief.
Memory lifts me
to familiar places and other days and nights;
to pulpits, Communion Tables, Baptismal Fonts;
to homes, and hospitals; kitchen tables and bedsides;
to classrooms and small group meetings; retreats and workshops.

Gently, my sense of Call is reaffirmed.

What to do?
I will not sell on the open market the gifts God has given me.

Regardless, there is little desire
for prophets in the secular world.
Pastoral skills are welcome in those who volunteer,
but "you may not mention God of course, nor proselytize."
What to do?
Transfer, as others have, to another denomination?
What about my understanding and experience of "the faith?"
Will I always feel like I have sold my birthright?

Words written this morning in my journal,
"I love my husband, children, family, friends.
I enjoy home and pets,
the familiar comforting household tasks,
the garden.
But God, there is still
the pain, which will not go away,
of certain gifts unused."

A thousand sermons clamor to be written, preached, heard.
A hundred programs,
ideas for congregational enrichment,
and spiritual growth
struggle for a place to grow.
I am a woman
and
a Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Undisturbed she hammers away at her stories

In celebration of a remarkable woman and her work

by Bert Witvoet

BRAMPTON, Ont. — Lini Richarda Grol, a vivacious senior citizen in Holland Christian Homes, Brampton, Ontario has never been able to cap her spring of creativity. In September 1995, at age 81, she started a literary club in the home. Its members meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. till noon to read poems or short stories and to talk about writers and their writing, either in Dutch or in English. Last year Lini wrote a one-act play called *Peppermint Troubles*, which has appeared in the anthology KAIROS 1996, published by Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario and will be performed there.

The imagination well within her started bubbling early in life. Born the fourth child of a Roman Catholic family of seven in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, she began writing poetry and stories at age nine or 10, much to the hilarity of her older brother and sister, she recalls. Lini tried to hide behind the pen name Anna Maria Catharina van Romanov tot Romanov, but her siblings saw right through that little scheme and henceforth referred to her as "the Freule" (the duchess).

She grew up in a home where her parents told their children folktales and other stories from their youth, "and we had a tradition of

singing and praying together as part of our daily lives," writes Lini.

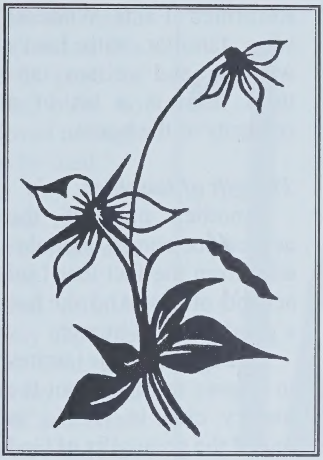
A wide range of experiences

Lini, who became a registered nurse before the Second World War, experienced the bombing of Rotterdam on May 14, 1940, but survived unharmed, though 14 other nurses were killed that day. After that she worked in several hospitals and sanitoria in Holland and even completed a three-year stint as a nurse in South Africa.

The most distressing and demanding job of her life was offering pre- and post-suicide care to failed-suicide patients and their families. The same sense of compassion that drove her to do such work and other volunteer tasks made her encounter with people's pain difficult.

In the meantime she continued to write stories and poems, often drawing from her experience as a nurse. Several of her works were published in Dutch periodicals.

In 1954, Lini and another Dutch nurse who also worked in a hospital in Pretoria, South Africa, decided to emigrate to Canada, because they did not trust the political situation in South Africa. In Canada Lini practised her nursing skills in Toronto, Brantford and finally Welland. During her summer holidays she took writing courses at McMaster University in Hamilton and at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (now University) in Toronto.



She notices more than most

In 1970 Lini moved to Fonthill, Ontario, to open a studio where she could sell her work. Over the years she used more than one medium. Who does not recall the delicate scissor cuttings by Grol? In addition to that she painted, formed mosaics and sculpted small pieces.

From her work one can tell that Lini Grol likes to focus on nature, children, suffering and happiness, God, and all those things and events that pass by those who are in a hurry and do not care for the still small voice of truth and love.

Lini also likes to speak up for the underdog and the fools.

Take her poem "My neighbor's dreams," which empathizes with the man next door who's building a huge boat that people think he will never finish. He's a kind of second Noah.

Undisturbed he hammers away,
always alone.
The passers-by yawn and say,
bored,
"He'll never leave the shore."
But he, while his hands are working away
sends his mind ahead of him,
reaching farther and farther
shores,
to return each night
with bigger dreams.

Lini, too, sent her mind ahead of her as she wrote and cut and painted. But she did reach other shores, as she was invited to exhibit her scissor art at Ottawa's Carleton University library, for example.

She feels at home

On February 23, 1995, Lini moved to Holland Christian Homes. That seems a little odd, given that she is Roman Catholic and many of the inhabitants of HCH are Reformed. Of course, she has the Dutch ethnic background in common with them. But what of the faith?

Lini has never been much interested in staring at the gap that runs between Christians of various denominational loyalties. She is an ecumenical Christian, who simply believes that we all serve the same Lord.

"I feel totally accepted," she wrote me in a letter regarding Holland Christian Homes. "I take part in many of the events."

Part of the acceptance came from the fact that several readers of *Christian Courier* [published by Reformed Faith Witness] were familiar with Lini's writings and scissor cuttings. Lini is a bit of a celebrity at the home.

The gift of laughter

Another part of the acceptance comes undoubtedly from the fact that Lini accepts others. And she has a good sense of humor.

"Laughter," she writes in a news release about the literary club in HCH, "is one of the great gifts of God to all of us. Only humans can laugh. God knew all along that we needed laughter in our lives. Only lately scientists have found out that laughter is beneficial to our health, that it has a healing quality to our suffering bodies and souls."

Does God laugh? Lini asks in one of her poems. The answer is:

Yes.
For there is a smile in the sky
when a rainbow stretches
to measure the unmeasurable,
and
there is a chuckle in the air
when a rivulet runs downhill
joining a river, claiming noisily
brotherhood
and yes
there is gentle laugh
when joy flashes between
parents and child
playing hide and seek
and finding each other.

"One has to wonder at

- Lini Grol, right, with June Stevenson, at exhibit of Lini's work, Georgetown, Ontario.
Photo by Terry Nicholls.

their wisdom," writes Lini in the same news release, "when it took scientists this long to find out that laughter is good for old and young. My late father, bless his soul, knew that long ago. He loved to laugh and was 98 years young when he died."

Lini never married, but that never stopped her from writing about mothers, families and children. Her scissor art also expresses the joys of parenthood.

Lini describes her personal mission statement as follows: "I sincerely hope that my writing shows my belief in God, and, what is more, his influence on my life and writing. God gives me strength and inspiration, and I pray daily that I come up to his generosity to me, and use my talent AMDG [Ad Majoram Dei Gloriam – Latin for 'to the greater glory of God']."

– Bert Witvoet is editor of Christian Courier, published by Reformed Faith Witness. Reprinted with permission from Christian Courier, February 14, 1997.

Like lice, Lini's works jumps around

by Bert Witvoet

Although no one, least of all Lini Grol, would claim that she is a major writer (seven of her 12 books are self-published under Trillium Books), Grol does have a remarkable output of works and has from time to time been recognized and awarded for her writings and artwork.

A life member of the American Association of Women Writers and of the Canadian Authors Association, as well as a long-time member of the Canadian Poetry Association, Grol has a book published with Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, Mich., (*Heartsongs*), a scissor-craft how-to-do-it book with Sterling Publishers of New York City and a book entitled *Liberation 1944-1945* with G. R. Welch Publishing in Canada.

- Art pp 10-13 by Lini Grol.

Her short stories have been published in periodicals and anthologies in the Netherlands, Canada, the U.S., South Africa and Belgium. Grol has written five plays, numerous poems, and has taken part in various radio and television programs.

She has been given the Canadian Authors Award by the Canadian Club of Hamilton, Ontario, and the Bourgoyne Award from the YWCA of St. Catharines for poetry, short stories and illustrations.

Her "Toronto" poem has been incorporated into an educational CD ROM.

A 1986 article in the Guardian Express gives a few examples of her achievements:

"Her book *Lelawala*, Maid of the Mist was made into a play and performed in schools in Bhutan, India. Her *Canadian Tales* (written in English) is on the reading list in the Free Schools in The Hague. She receives orders for her books from Australia, and requests from Japan for the right to translate her work into Japanese."

Not bad for a nurse who used to be in charge of helping kids get rid of lice in war-torn Amsterdam. ɡ

A Harvest Centerpiece

GET READY

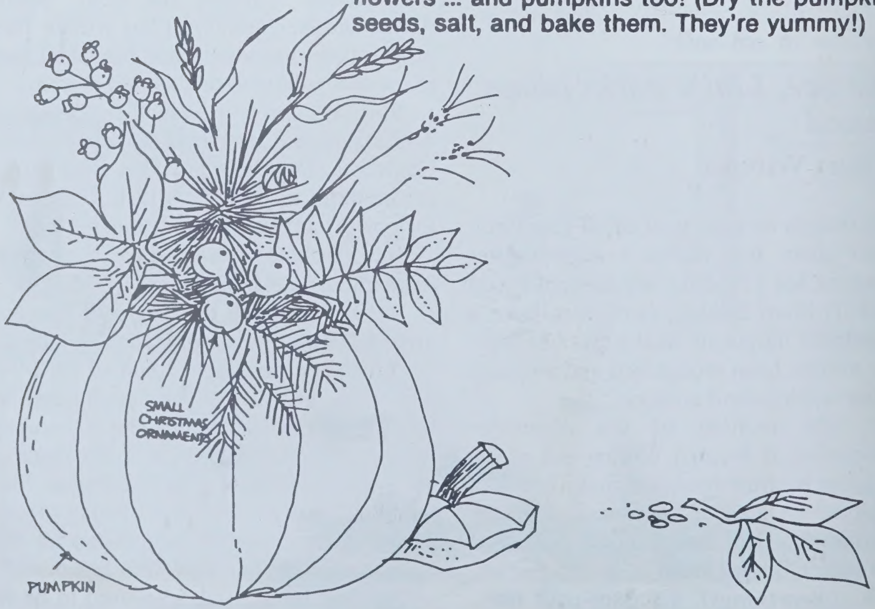
a small pumpkin
a plastic container (such as cottage cheese carton or Cool Whip container
pebbles, sand, or floral foam
flowers and/or waxed leaves

GET SET

1. Cut a hole in the top of the pumpkin and hollow it out.
2. Fill a plastic container with pebbles, sand, or floral foam and set it down inside the pumpkin.
3. Arrange fall cut flowers, wild or dried flowers, and/or waxed leaves in the container.

GO

PRESTO! You have a lovely fall centerpiece for a dinner or party table. Thank God for leaves and flowers ... and pumpkins too! (Dry the pumpkin seeds, salt, and bake them. They're yummy!)



Source: *The Big Book of Bible Crafts and Projects* by Joy MacKenzie (ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1982), available at your local bookstore or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 NRSV

Mission: Ever Expanding Circles

by Annemarie Klassen

Mission . . .
moving beyond our own Jerusalems—
the comfortable and familiar places,
the places where we first knew God
and felt God's healing presence.

Mission . . .
pushing the boundaries in ever widening circles
beyond our exclusivities and preconceived ideas,
to include the Judeas and Samarias
and the unknown, and sometimes frightening, landscapes of our world.

Mission . . .
walking in that strange territory—
and in our vulnerability, empowered by the Spirit,
as messengers of forgiveness and reconciliation—
discovering with delight and joy,
resemblances of that Jerusalem
we first called home.

Mission happens when, through the power of the Spirit, we move out of our small spaces to share God's love with others—and in return, receive it. This happens
individually, as we reach out to those closest to us—our family, friends and co-workers;
congregationally, as we push open the church doors to walk in our communities;
denominationally, as we open our hands, hearts and wallets in support of ministries funded through *Presbyterians Sharing . . .* and Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Annemarie Klassen is Associate Secretary, education for Discipleship, Life and Mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Mission in the 1940s:

This letter was found by Alexander McTavish of Burns Church, Newton, Ontario. It belonged to his aunt Elspeth Davidson. Miss Davidson was appointed by the WMS (WD) and served in British Guiana between 1946 and 1949 in Berbice High School. The original document has been sent to the Presbyterian Church Archives housed at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario.

Brush Lot Village,
West Coast Berbice
27.6.49

Miss E. Davidson,
Lady Missionary,
Berbice

Dear Madam,

It is with deep regret that we now have to say good-bye to you on the eve of your departure from us, back to your home-land–Canada. We will miss you greatly but we can assure you that the name of Miss Davidson will always linger in our memories, especially when we will be faced with our difficulties which during your regime were so easily overcome by your tactful leadership.

You were an ideal Missionary, an inspired leader, a devoted Christian and a lady of Vision. Indeed we must say that you were an asset both to us and our work in this part of our Lord's Vineyard.

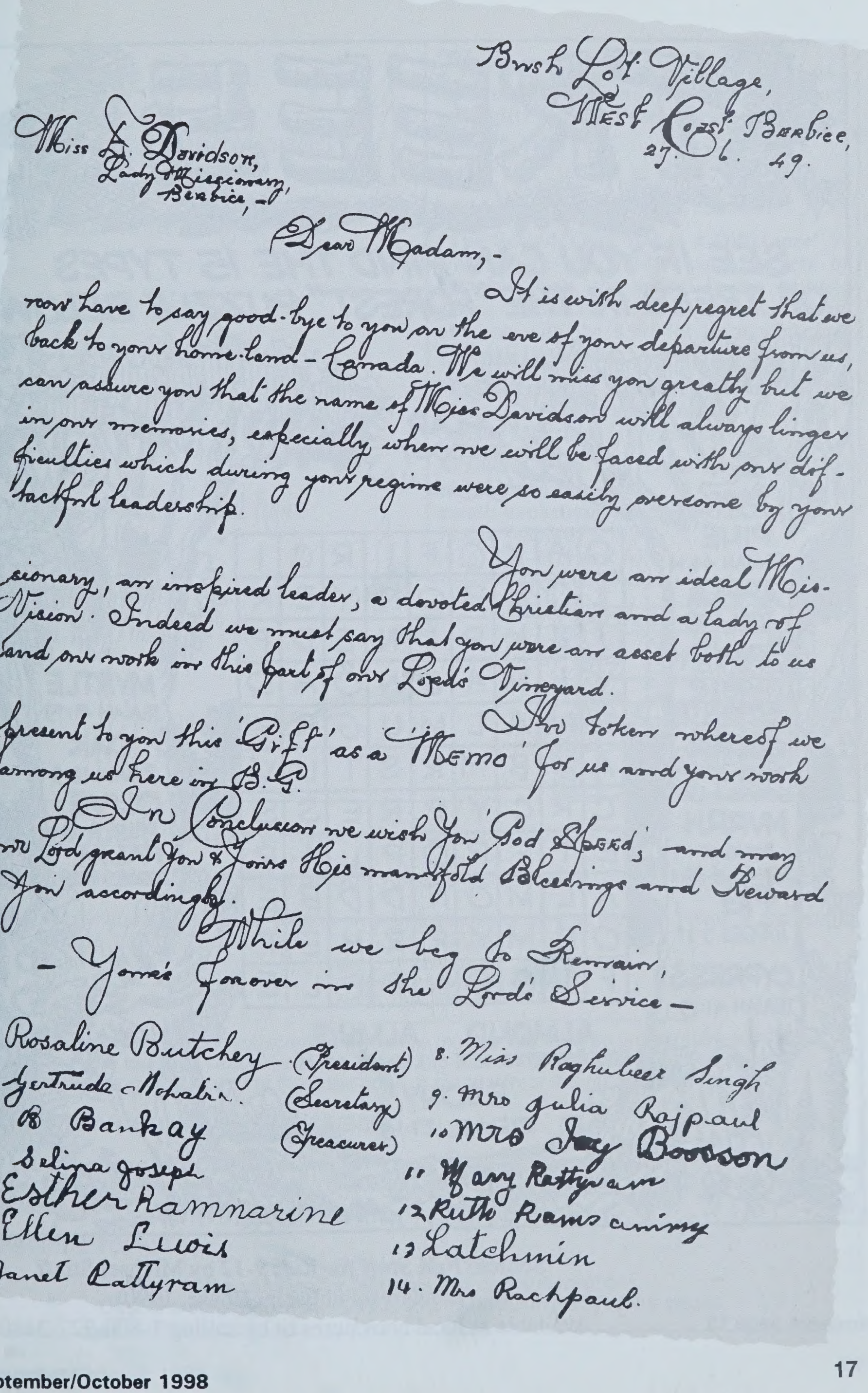
In token whereof we present to you this 'Gift' as a 'Memo' for us and your work among us here in B.G.

In conclusion we wish you 'God Speed', and may our Lord grant you and yours His manifold Blessings and reward you accordingly.

While we beg to remain,

– Yours forever in the Lord's Service –

1. Rosaline Poutchey (President)
2. Gertrude Nohabir (Secretary)
3. B. Bankay (Treasurer)
4. Selina Joseph
5. Esther Ramnarine
6. Ellen Lewis
7. Janet Rattyram
8. Miss Raghubeer Singh
9. Mrs. Julia Rajpaul
10. Mrs. Ivy Boosson
11. Mary Rattyram
12. Ruth Ramsanimy
13. Latchmin
14. Mrs. Rachpaul



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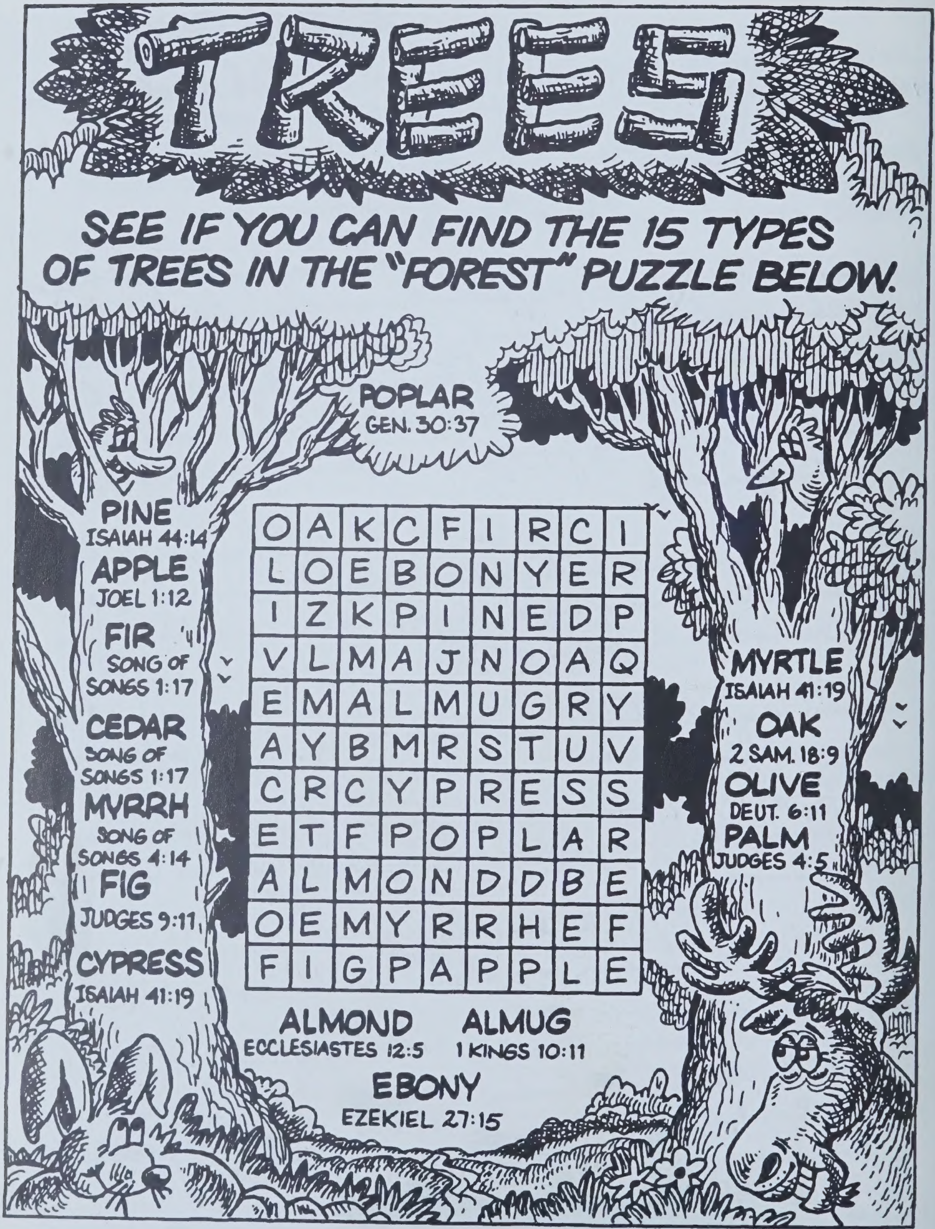


TREES

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE 15 TYPES OF TREES IN THE "FOREST" PUZZLE BELOW.

POPLAR
GEN. 30:37

PINE
ISAIAH 44:14

APPLE
JOEL 1:12

FIR
SONG OF SONGS 1:17

CEDAR
SONG OF SONGS 1:17

MYRRH
SONG OF SONGS 4:14

FIG
JUDGES 9:11

CYPRESS
ISAIAH 41:19

O	A	K	C	F	I	R	C	I
L	O	E	B	O	N	Y	E	R
I	Z	K	P	I	N	E	D	P
V	L	M	A	J	N	O	A	Q
E	M	A	L	M	U	G	R	Y
A	Y	B	M	R	S	T	U	V
C	R	C	Y	P	R	E	S	S
E	T	F	P	O	P	L	A	R
A	L	M	O	N	D	D	B	E
O	E	M	Y	R	R	H	E	F
F	I	G	P	A	P	P	L	E

MYRTLE
ISAIAH 41:19

OAK
2 SAM. 18:9

OLIVE
DEUT. 6:11

PALM
JUDGES 4:5

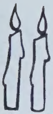
ALMOND
ECCLESIASTES 12:5

ALMUG
1 KINGS 10:11

EBONY
EZEKIEL 27:15

Source: ***Fun Stuff for Kids 9-12*** by Michael Streff (ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1990).
Available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

Answers page 19

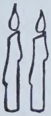


Lights

We, a company of scattered candles
wavering over a vast land,
meet, to shine a little brighter.

We are the wick enkindled,
burning high in still corners
yet inseparable flame
bending to the wind.

We walk, you and I, small lights
in a wide, dark desert,
to the point of sunrise
where all lights meet as one.



Joanne M. Weston

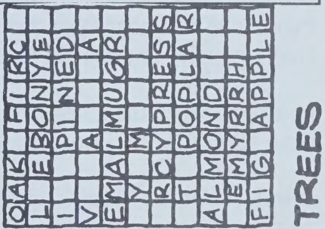
Three new videos featuring the mission and ministries funded through your gifts to The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

"Let's Go To The Lord's Cornfield" International Ministries (12 minutes)

"The School That Makes a Difference" A video about the children and teachers of Fransisco Coll, the school in the garbage dump, Guatemala City. May be used on its own, or with the 1998-99 learning/sharing material. (5-minute)

"Presbyterians Sharing...Your Money Makes a Difference Across Canada" Canada Ministries (12 minutes)

Available from The Book Room at $5.00 each or two for $8.00
email: bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Phone 1-800-619-7301
(416) 441-1111 ext. 333



A Reminder: It's Time to Renew Your Subscription

IF YOU SUBSCRIBE THROUGH A GROUP you can help your local Glad Tidings Secretary by:

1. Checking your address on her list and on your label. Make sure all the information is correct and up-to-date, including postal code:

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Ms. L. J. Stevenson,
50 Wynford Drive,
North York, ON M3C 1J7

2. Arranging to *transfer* your subscription if you are moving into an area where there is another group. It is more costly to *cancel* from one group and add as "new" on another. Please give Secretary of new group a copy of the label on your magazine or the number from the label.

IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBER:

1. If you belong to a church that has a Glad Tidings group, please subscribe through the group.
2. Check your address on your label to make sure all the information is correct and up-to-date. (See label above).

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

October 30, 1998
is the deadline for renewals and new subscriptions.
Cost of a subscription for 1999 is **$10.00** (including GST) for 6 issues.

Thanksgiving Service of Worship

A Moment to Choose

by Raymond Hodgson

Make copies of the Service for all participants.
If possible, have participants seated in a circle or a semicircle.
You will need a world map and some removable dot stickers.
You could also display posters (available from PWS&D) on refugees.

Quotations are taken from the "World Council of Churches Statement on Uprooted People: A Moment to Choose, Risking to Be With Uprooted People".

Call to Worship: (from Psalm 100)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

People: Know that the Lord is God. The Lord made us; we belong to God. We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to the Lord, bless God's name.

People: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, God's faithfulness to all generations.

Hymn: #478 To Abraham and Sarah (Book of Praise 1997 edition) OR
#510 O God of Bethel (verses 1,3,5) (Book of Praise 1972 edition)

Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (You may want a second and a third voice to read the quotations that begin part way through verse three and part way through verse five and end part way through verse 10.)

A Wandering Aramean was my ancestor:
Post the world map on a wall. Invite people who were not born in Canada to come to the map and put a dot where they were born. Then invite those whose parents were not born in Canada; those whose grandparents were not born in Canada, etc.; ensure that everyone has a chance to put a dot on the map.

Leader: As we reflect on where our families have come from and give thanks to God that we can be in mission and ministry in this place at this time, let us remember those who are still journeying. "More than one in every fifty human beings is now a refugee or international migrant. Most are women, youth, and children. The vast majority leave countries in the South and remain in the South…" I invite you to share why you or your ancestors left their places of origin in a few words. My family left because _______. After each sharing the group responds:

"Thanks be to God for protection on the journey and bringing us safely here." (Allow up to fifteen minutes for this activity.)

Leader: Let us remember people who have been forced from their homes. "Uprooted people are those forced to leave their communities: those who flee because of persecution and war, those who are forcibly displaced because of environmental devastation and those who are compelled to seek sustenance in a city or abroad because they cannot survive at home…"

Prayer: (Unison)
Lord, clear our eyes that we may see
the suffering of the refugee.
Unstop our ears that we might hear
the cries of those in deep despair.
Release our fettered feet to tread
paths where we may some comfort spread.
Unbind our hands that they may move,
the fullness of your love to prove.
Unloose our tongue that we may seek
your words of hope and love to speak.
Lord, fill our heart that we might be
your servants to the refugee. Amen.*

Offering:
Voice 1: "As government policies become more restrictive and public hostility against foreigners intensifies in every region, churches are challenged as never before to make a choice: will they choose to be the church of the stranger and take the side of the uprooted, or will they choose to turn away and ignore the problem?"

Voice 2: (before the offering)
We are called to be the church
the witness of Christ in the world
the disciples who follow in the steps
of the one who lived within and for the marginalized
those kept to the outside of society.
We are called to welcome the stranger in our midst.*

Unison: (after the offering)
Gracious God, receive our offering. Guide those who use it that it may help to bring fullness of life to those who live in need and long for our care. Amen.*

Hymn: #457 Now thank we all our God (Book of Praise 1997 edition)(#103 Book of Praise, 1972 edition)

Blessing: (divide gathering into two groups)
Group 1: May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within.

Group 2: May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart till it glows like a great fire, and strangers may warm themselves as well as friends.

Group 1: And may the light shine out of the eyes of you like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

Group 2: May you ever have a kindly greeting for people as you're going along the roads.

Unison: And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly, Amen.*

*Taken from On Frequent Journeys: Worship Resources on Uprooted Peoples ed. Rebekah Chevalier, UCPH, 1997 (adapted)

+ "Irish Blessing" used with permission of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland.

1998/99 Learning/Sharing Project– Mission Partners for Children and Youth

- What does it mean to be a mission partner?
- What do we give to our mission partners? What do we receive from them?
- What are some of the challenges of mission partnerships?
- How can we be mission partners with people in our community? With people in Guatemala?

Children and youth will explore the answers to these questions in the 1998/99 Learning/Sharing Project "Mission Partners for Children and Youth." They will also raise money to assist the school for children living in the dump in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

The study contains six sessions:

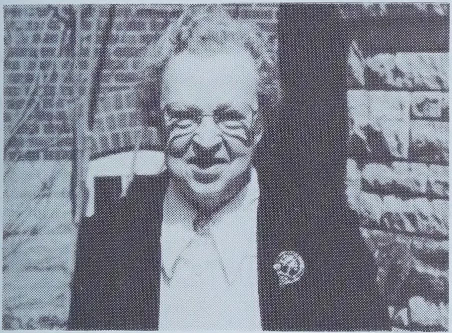
1. Being Mission Partners
2. Giving & Receiving in Mission Partnership
3. Resolving Conflict in Mission Partnership
4. Mission Partners In Canada
5. Mission Partners In Guatemala
6. Celebrating Our Mission Partnerships

The Learning/Sharing offering project provides stories, games, crafts, group activities and discussions, and recipes. The six sessions help participants explore partnership relationships from a biblical perspective while providing information about some of our church's mission partners in Canada and overseas. Participants will learn about the people and culture of Guatemala and our church's work there. The project encourages everyone to be active mission partners both locally and internationally.

Use the Learning/Sharing Project in church school, youth groups, after-school programs, camps, vacation church school, or any place where children and youth gather. Order your copy for $5.00 from the Book Room, 50 Wynford Drive, North York, ON Telephone 1-800-619-7301, 416-441-1111 ext/ 239/240.

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Lane



Jean Anderson Clifton Lane was born in Toronto on July 25, 1906. Growing up in a family marked by tragedies, she developed survivor instincts and would not let things get her down. She enjoyed church school and Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT).

Jean worked as a bookkeeper, then entered nurses' training. She did private duty nursing before serving as a nurse/lieutenant in England during the Second World War. She returned to Canada in 1941 with severe arthritis shortly before she was to have landed at Dieppe. In 1942, she married Arthur Lane whom she met before the war in the church choir at Wychwood, Toronto. They became active members of Glenview, Toronto, in 1948.

Jean sang in Glenview's choir for 32 years, taught Mission Band and church school, was CGIT leader, spent months making costumes for the annual Christmas pageant, actively supported WMS and helped establish Meals on Wheels at Glenview. She was a member of the national CGIT council for many years and served the WMS on Council Executive from 1965-1970. During her time on Council Executive she was Secretary for evening groups from 1967-1969. Following her term on Council Executive, she also served as Chairperson of the Book Room Committee.

Jean Lane was predeceased by husband Arthur and is survived by sons Douglas (Glenview, Toronto) and Bill and Rita (Stamford, Niagara Falls) and four grandchildren. Jean died May 5, 1998.

Faith Answered

(I John 4:18)

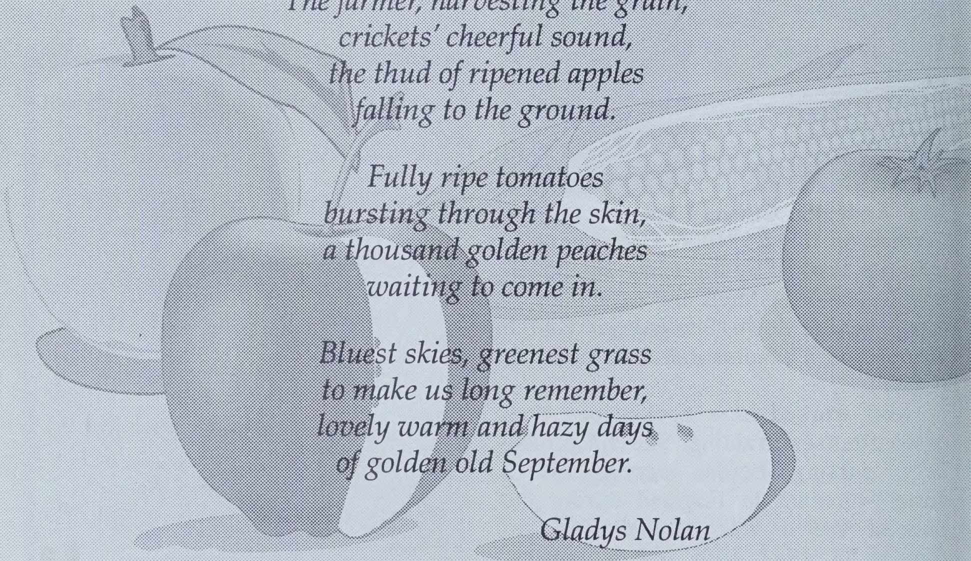
Fear knocked on my door. I trembled.
I shriveled up inside.
Fear showed up uninvited.
I tried to run and hide.
Fear knew that he was my master.
He laughed. He had me tied.

Christ knocked on my door. I answered.
I said, "Please come inside."
Christ said I need not be frightened,
if I with Him abide.
Christ then became my new Master.
I'll trust. Faith's on my side.

Faith knocked on my door. He entered.
My trust I do declare.
When fear shows up uninvited,
to Christ I breathe a prayer.
Faith throws my heart's door wide open.
Fear's gone! there's no one there.

Helen Dowd

September



Earth, new born in April
in September is matured,
and o'er the land a golden look
as happy sounds are heard.

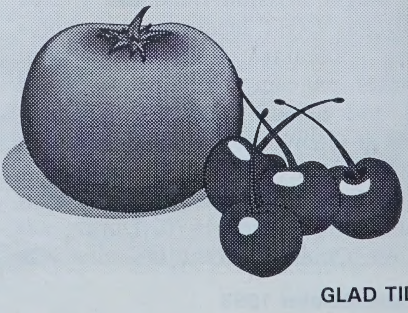
The farmer, harvesting the grain,
crickets' cheerful sound,
the thud of ripened apples
falling to the ground.

Fully ripe tomatoes
bursting through the skin,
a thousand golden peaches
waiting to come in.

Bluest skies, greenest grass
to make us long remember,
lovely warm and hazy days
of golden old September.

Gladys Nolan

Gladys Nolan is a freelance writer from London, Ontario. She is a charter member of the Canadian Author's Association, London Branch and has served as Secretary-Treasurer and President. In her 90th year, she continues to write poetry and prose.



The Old Sheep Pasture

The leaves are falling;
Smoky haze obscures the horizon.
Nature is calling
A child to its home.

Don't ask why, for you can't find the reason
The city holds it within its embrace;
The home mountains beckon, their beauty is calling;
They stand there forever in quiet and grace.

Over the ridge the fir trees stand waiting
'Till winter enwraps them in snow inches deep;
Far back, but a part of this picture elating,
The beautiful hills their guardianship keep.

The ledges once rang under the hoofs of sheep,
Hurrying to lick the salt from our hand:
Now they remain, guardians of the calm so deep
That keeps our pasture, beloved of lands.

Past years become seconds in memory's dream,
And some pictures may fade day by day;
A reflection remains, with enchantment supreme,
Of that pasture where we used to play.

Martha E. Stickney

Martha E. Stickney was a member of Glenview Afternoon Auxiliary, Glenview Church, Toronto, for many years and an effective leader, skilled at teaching and creative in worship service. She died on March 12, 1997.

Born in New Portland, Maine, she attended local schools and graduated from Central High School in 1937. She was a 1941 graduate of Bates College.

For 11 years, she taught at high schools in Danforth, South Paris, Barr Mill, Bath, and Madison, Maine.

In 1952, she married Fred A. Stickney in Brunswick, Maine, and since that time has lived in Canada. He died in 1988.

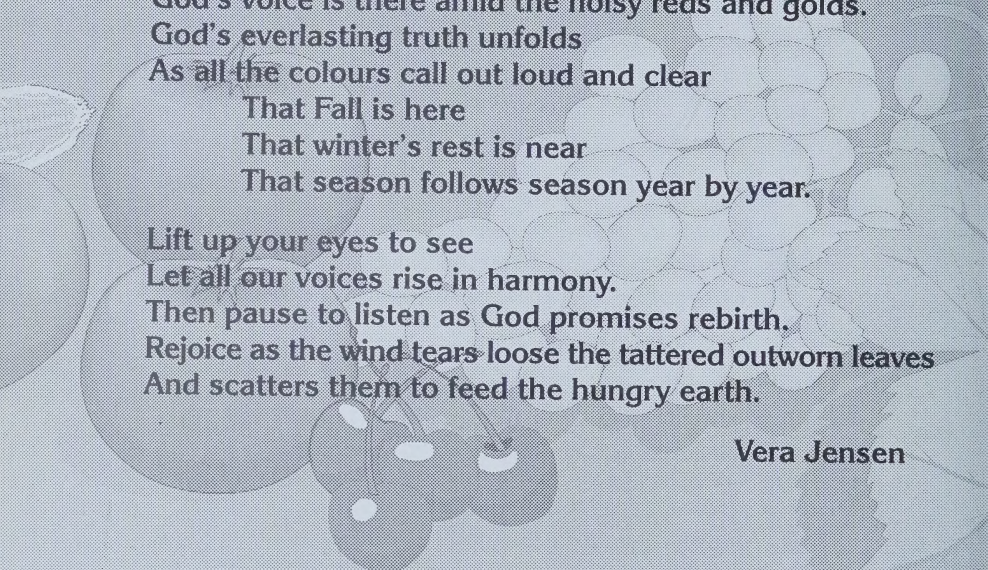
Margaret's daughters Margaret, Elaine and Anne, have given permission for some of her writings to be published.

Thanks to Martha's friend Marion Partridge of Etobicoke for sending them in. The photo of Martha Stickney was taken around 1950.

God's Fall Fair

Our valley echoes with the sound of God's Fall Fair.
God set those colours out.
And raised the shout.
God's voice is there amid the noisy reds and golds.
God's everlasting truth unfolds
As all the colours call out loud and clear
        That Fall is here
        That winter's rest is near
        That season follows season year by year.

Lift up your eyes to see
Let all our voices rise in harmony.
Then pause to listen as God promises rebirth.
Rejoice as the wind tears loose the tattered outworn leaves
And scatters them to feed the hungry earth.



Vera Jensen

Vera Jensen is a freelance writer from Comox, BC. She has had many articles and poems published in various magazines in the U.S., Canada and New Zealand. About herself Vera writes:

I was seventeen when I first left Vancouver Island with a suitcase, my typewriter, enough money for one year as a Journalism Major at the University of Washington in Seattle, and a dream of becoming a world class news correspondent.

Romance tripped me up but I never stopped writing. I got married, and while caring for our children, and raising numerous sheep, goats, rabbits and hens, I covered Town Council meetings, 4H competitions, PTA meetings and other Social Events for the local paper.

Fifteen years later I was single again with four children, two dogs, a cat, a pony and a goat. The animals went to various farms and I went back to school, this time to the University of Victoria, where I started a new career as a teacher. The children grew up, left home, got married, and presented me with a wonderful assortment of grandchildren. After twenty years of writing report cards, lesson plans, previews, overviews, and letters to parents I retired and took my dogs and my typewriter to the beach to live with my mother and her cat. My mother is gone now but I continue watching for whales and sea-lions, fishboats, seals and eagles and, when I am not gardening, I am writing.

Forward in Faith

Do you pay much attention to the trees? Those of us who experienced the *Ice Storm* of 1998 will be reminded for years to come just by the damage to some trees. How does this relate to my Christian life?

From my window, I can see different trees. The pine tree stands tall in its splendour. With a strong faith in God I will have the strength to face the storms of life.

The branches of the birch tree are bent completely to the ground. As the tree returns to its true form, I am reminded that God is faithful even when we have trials and temptations.

When I see the trees that have been scarred for life with their many broken branches, I am reminded that unless I stay firm in the word of God and follow Him, I can be scarred or broken from the fellowship of God. Daily I am reminded that I must be faithful to God in my walk that I might reflect Christ in my life.

The psalmist in Psalm 119: 105 reminds us: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

Irene Nesbitt, Treasurer

Revenue from January to June 1998 is $393,778, which includes Presbyterial givings of $274,487. Expenditures are $550,436.

Estimates for 1998: $1,089,550

"*I*"-Witness

My daughter asked me to pray for a friend of a friend at school who had been "kicked out" of the house. The school had suspended her too. Nobody knew where she was.

Two days later a teenager walked into the downtown mission where I work. She wanted to talk to a counsellor about getting back into school. She really wanted to go back–it was a special arts high school and she was a gifted visual artist. I looked at her. I said "Are you _____'s friend?" Her eyes filled with fear—"Are you _____'s mother?" she asked me.

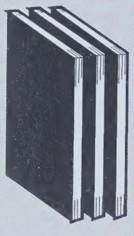
"No, I'm the mother of her friend. We've been praying for you at our house. Don't worry. My work here is confidential."

I called a guidance counsellor who went to my church and worked for the same school board her school came under. Yes, you did need a fixed address in order to be enrolled in school. She gave me the name and phone number of a person who headed up a housing agency for teenagers in the area. She too was a fellow Presbyterian! The housing worker gave me the steps my young friend needed to take, and I passed them on. She wondered how the young girl had found her way down to the mission. "God?" was all I could say.

The young girl came in a few more times for soup and sandwiches, sometimes now with a young man. The steps she needed to take to get back to school seemed to be receding into the background. At home, we continued to pray.

That was last winter. This fall, my daughter came home and told me the friend of her friend was back in school. She was living in the teenage housing provided by the agency.

Helen Smith,
Toronto, ON.



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The 1999 Multifaith Calendar: Human Rights and Sacred Roots. G5896 $14.95
The ideals described in the secular UN Declaration of Human Rights (1949) and the spiritual wisdom taught in every religion have guided the human family in the quest for a just social order and have led to historic advances along the way. Each month features portions of the Declaration, a calendar of sacred days for many faiths, and as always, stunning illustrations.

HUMAN RIGHTS SACRED ROOTS

Grieving as a Woman: Moving Through Life's Many Losses by Kass P. Dotterweich. Abbey Press. G5833 $9.50
At last, a book about grief written by a woman for women about the way women experience life's many losses. This handy little book is at once practical, philosophical, down to earth and spiritual. It lends itself to a quick read or for bite sized moments, when even something intended to help can seem too much to handle.

Generous Living: The Joys and Heartaches of Ministry Overseas by Heather Flinton. Published by Anglican Book Centre. G3352 $13.75
Regardless of the denomination of service, anyone in mission outside of his/her own country will identify with this book's themes of bewilderment, bruises, and bounty that organize the true-life story of an Anglican volunteer in Brazil. This book is undeniably a devotional aid and tool kit for Christians concerned with outreach, but it also serves to remind all readers that mission is just as much about being gracious receivers as well as givers.

Emma's Magic Winter An I Can Read Book by Jean Little, Canada's best-loved storyteller for children. $5.25
Emma is so shy, she can barely read out loud in school, and when a new girl moves in next door, Emma isn't sure she can make friends. But a happy coincidence leads the two to share a winter of magical make-believe and the miracle of friendship.

An I Can Read Book
Emma's
MAGIC
WINTER

My Baptism. Wood Lake Books G5885 $31.95
My Baptism is a lovely gift boxed record book that is different from any other. It

tells the story of Jesus' baptism and includes space to tell the story of the child's baptism next to it. There are places for pictures of the child, the family, the church and the church family, as well as for momentos of that very special day. This will be a valued addition to the photo album collections all children draw out from time to time with the words, "Tell me about when I was little..."

KOREAN BOOKS AVAILABLE:

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission to Korea. The WMS had a mission in Korea beginning in 1901 with Dr. Kate MacMillan, MD and Ms Louise McCully until 1925 when it was transferred to the WMS of the United Church. Although the Korean Mission has been United Church the Korean Church has remained staunchly Presbyterian to this day. Most of the missionaries were Presbyterians or former Presbyterians. The Korean Church is a sister church and we believe that the work of the WMS women should not go unrecognized.

Below is a list of memoirs of missionaries of interest to readers of Glad Tidings including one very prominent WMS medical worker.

Miss Doris Grierson is publishing several writings of her father Rev. Robert Grierson, MD, one of the pioneer missionaries in Korea. They include his diaries from 1898 to 1901; "A Long Long Trail" (an autobiography of his work in Korea 1898-1935); "Afterward" a sequel to "A Corn of Wheat" by Elizabeth McCully. "Afterward" was written for the twentieth anniversary of the Canadian Korean Presbyterian Mission in 1918; "A Corn of Wheat" is a biographical sketch of Rev. William MacKenzie an independent Canadian Presbyterian missionary (1893-1895) whose bequest and work in Korea forced the opening of the Presbyterian Mission to Korea.

Currently available:

1. writings of Rev. Dr. Robert Grierson MD
    Diary of Reverend Robert Grierson MD ed. Ms Doris Grierson
    Afterward by Dr. R. Grierson ed. J. G. McMullin
    Long Long Trail by Dr. R. Grierson
    A Two Year Journal of Dr. Robert Grierson ed K. M. Hayes

These documents are available through Doris Grierson, 14 Fairmar Avenue, Toronto, ON M8Y 2C8

2. writings of Rev. Dr. Duncan M. MacRae DD:
    A Tiger on Dragon Mountain by Helen Fraser MacRae

This is available from Helen F. MacRae Haslam, Park West Lodge, 22 Richmond Street, Charlottetown, PEI CIA 1H4

3. Scott's Canadians in Korea. Dr. William Scott's work is being revised and should be reissued for publication at the end of the year. It is hoped that more work of the WMS missionaries can be included in the expanded version. Progress of the revision can be obtained from J. G. McMullin, 409 Askin Blvd., Windsor, ON N9B 2X3

4. writings of Dr. F. J. Murray MD CM:
    At The Foot of Dragon Hill by Florence J. Murray MD
    Return to Korea by Florence J. Murray MD

The first is out of print and the second is unpublished. They may be available from the United Church archives and the Dalhousie University.

Alice L. McMullin,
member Knox Presbyterian Church,
Windsor, Ontario

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." **2 CORINTHIANS 9:7**

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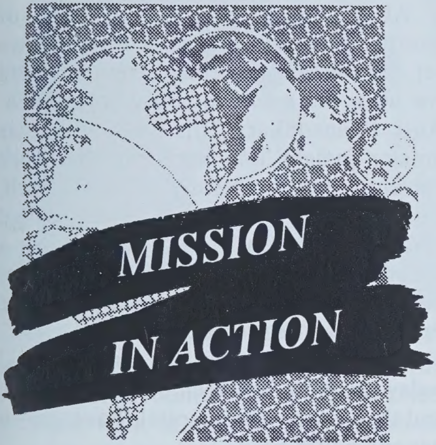


Mission in Action **replaces "Dear Friends". Addresses of personnel may be found in the Nov/Dec issue or obtained from the Life & Mission Agency.**

The Inglis Family
Blantyre, Malawi

May 1998-In Malawi and many other countries of the world, May 1, is the day set aside to commemorate the contribution of labour to the world economy. The main entertainment is a series of football matches, as well as the better known bands coming to town for 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. concerts at local clubs. After a week of Ernest Angley Crusades (in which he said some churches in Malawi were run by wizards) maybe it is time for Blantyre to get back to normal.

Unfortunately, in terms of labour, normal means unemployment of over 50%, and under-employment higher again. Almost everyday, we receive letters with resumes of university graduates hoping for a job. In our department of Church and Society, we had 120 applicants for a single position, almost all with degrees. As you move around the country you see scores of young, able people just sitting around, frustrated, despondent, but still hopeful that something will come along. In town, at the bus station, near the markets, you find 'businessmen', men and women who are selling everything from bananas to plastic bowls to fake Nike shoes in the hope of paying the rent and buying some food.

We who follow in the school of John Calvin know that work is not simply useful but is a defining characteristic of our life together. We often speak of work as vocation and Calvin asserted that any work–secular or ecclesiastical–performed with honesty and energy glorified our Creator and contributed to the welfare of society. Idleness is not something Calvinists consider close to godliness.

In Canada and the North in general, we understand that anxiety around work as we endure globalization, liberalization and restructuring of our economies. In the South, these words are translated into poverty, unemployment, despair and an increase in crime, violence and the spread of disease. The potential for more political unrest is a time bomb.

The push for profit and the trend to unload labour whenever possible means that most countries in the world are experiencing social stress. In the developing world, the stress is causing social breakdown.

On this Labour Day I remember the line of someone who said that God created us to use wealth and enjoy people; but we have become a race that enjoys wealth and uses people. Have we abandoned the economic world to the 'market'? Has the market replaced God, or even become God? I sense a fatalism here that the big issues are out of our hands. The same seems to be true in Canada where people argue that we are a small country trying to keep pace with global changes beyond our control. Such fatalism does not fit well with our Biblical and Reformed doctrine of creation or our understanding of the Reign of God. I think we need to assert our belief in God's sovereignty and the prophets' cry for justice. Creation itself is groaning for liberation and the Church needs to recover its voice.

I am aware of my general anger at the pain and privation all around us–angrier because in a just world much of this pain need not occur. However, we are not living every day in a seething rage and most of the time we are busy with the events that give life purpose and pleasure.

We have made a huge transition over the past 18 months. We are very proud of our children who have endured dislocations and have come out doing just fine. We are grateful to our denomination for posting families in days of rising costs for travel, schooling, health etc. We are grateful to you for prayers and encouragement. We are grateful to God for the grace which sustains us, grace made human that we too might know what the fullness of humanity can be.

In Christ,

Glenn, Linda, Jocelyn, Luke & Naomi

Margaret & Jake Vanderzweerde
India

The following letters have been condensed:

January 1998 – Greetings from India. Jake and I are near the halfway mark of our current journey. So far it has been an exciting experience, especially the time we spent with the group that visited India and with whom we celebrated the 100th anniversary in Amkhut and the 75th of Jobat Christian Hospital.

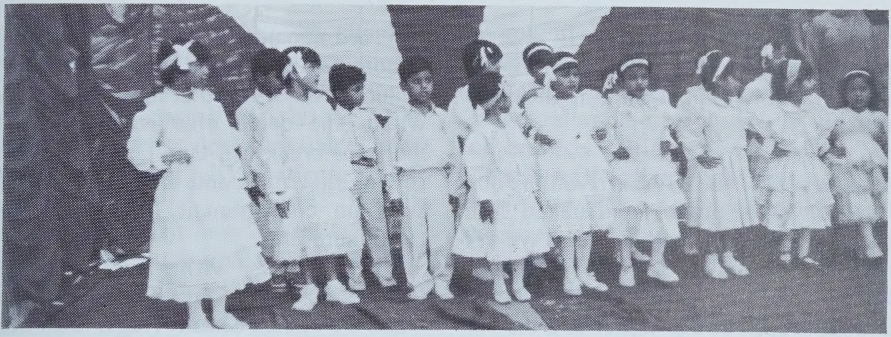
At the invitation of the Church of North India, our partner in mission, we set out for Miraj Medical Center where we were the guests of the Director, Dr. Anil Phansopkar. This visit gave us greater insight into not only the work currently, but the history of the Church. The Medical Centre, originally called "Wanless Hospital", was founded by a Canadian Presbyterian, Dr. Wanless of Toronto, in 1892 (sent by the Presbyterian Church USA).

From the time of his arrival until today the work has been blessed by God, and the Church and hospitals have grown beyond belief.

Dr. Shaila Jacob, the community health director, runs an impressive program consisting of some curative, but mainly preventive health care, social and educational programs and hopes to start AIDS programs soon. This is very important. Since Wanless became a medical college in 1972 modern teaching methods also required the testing for HIV. It was found some years ago that four-five percent of patients tested HIV positive. Today that percentage is probably much higher, requiring immediate attention, through education, and making free testing possible.

The missionaries who came here also established schools and training centers. One such institution is the Sangli Industrial School. Here young men and dedicated women are trained under retired brigadier George Mathew, a totally dedicated Christian. The cost of training a student in a two-year program is only Rs. 3000 (for the two years). That is Cdn. $120.

Near the hospital in Miraj stands the Baisinger Memorial Library. This library was started to encourage villagers and students alike, to read a variety of literature. The library contains mainly English



- Children performing at opening celebration MLM Nursery School, Jhansi.

books, all donated. There is also a "walk-in" reading room, open to the road. Here people walk in and stand at lectern-like structures, reading the daily papers and discussing the news. A wonderful way for them to keep up with the news and enter into dialogue. It is extremely popular. The library is extensively used by adults and children alike.

They desperately need books and are requesting anyone, group, or congregation to consider sending a gift of used books. They are especially interested in Readers Digest publications on countries, animals, and other general interest subjects. Needless to say, they welcome anything with gratitude. A copy of the covering letter should be sent to Dr. Anil Phansopkar, Director, Wanless Hospital, Miraj Maharashtra 416410.

The schools I visited are in dire need of books on geography and maps. If anyone wishes to fill a need in that department you may send material to Mt. Sinai School or Emmanuel School of Sangli, with the mailing address as c/o Dr. Phansopkar.

If anyone reading this knows either Mrs. Isabel Wanless Dodds of Orangeville or Dr. Harold L. Wanless of Kitchener, you could give them a copy of this. It seems that they do not have a Canadian contact and might like to learn what is currently happening in Miraj.

Miraj Christian Church has truly impressed me. Founded on December 4, 1896 it is one of 90 churches in the Diocese. A total of 42 pastors give leadership. The congregation in Miraj is very active. They have an English and Hindi service on Sundays. The groups of the church are also very active and they boast a music/study group that visits various cities for crusades and have even appeared on TV and radio. The Sunday School boasts 500 students and everyone is expected to be involved in the work of the church, which considers evangelism as a priority.

This congregations has started three satellite churches and has committed itself to erect 22 small places of worship in the diocese. They already have re-erected two small churches that had been terribly neglected.

The women's group supports 39 widows in the congregation. This is a real need as India has no government supported social services, therefore, no pensions.

Elders visit regularly neighboring villages, preaching and teaching. They often take along the choir/drama club. They re-enact the Bible stories. Indians just love street plays. The congregation is very conscious of both spiritual and temporal needs. They believe the Gospel must be lived and the children are to be surrounded with Christianity. In order to fund all this the stewardship committee is constantly at work, challenging the members.

February 24, 1998 – We arrived in Jobat a few days ago, totally exhausted from extensive travel through India as we visited, on invitation a number of CNI Dioceses and institutions. Jake has kept a running record of our travel and the statistics are as follows: 368 hours in transit of which 184 were by train. We covered 10,577 km. of railway track, 4,634 km. by car and 1,418 km. by bus.

During the month of December we were able to visit three PWS&D projects, unofficially. Christmas in the South was a once in a lifetime experience as we spent most of the time in an orphanage for girls. Right after New Year I took ill with a viral infection that took me out of commission for a week. An old friend and wonderful loving person, Savithri Devanessen, took care of me by bringing chicken soup, toast, jellied dishes and warm oatmeal.

While in Madurai I was invited to attend a Christmas program for the elderly homeless women, who live on the streets. This was held in the MNFE building and the program was sponsored by PWS&D. I was asked to present each of the women with a woollen shawl, certainly not a luxury in this cold weather for street people.

Getting around in Madurai was difficult as the city had recently been hit by unseasonable torrential rains. The streets were flooded and the plight of the homeless can't be overstated.

We were able to visit a number of people who have benefited from the organization's "self-employment scheme". This enables persons to get a loan in order to start a business. One woman received a loan for Cdn $120 and bought a loom, located in her house. She weaves beautiful saris. Another has a rented shop where she cooks rice cakes and sells them for breakfast. One family has three sewing machines and they sew women's suits on consignment from a garment manufacturer.

In Madras, with IFDE (another PWS&D project) we were devastated when we visited Shastri Nagar. This slum area in Madras (now Chennai) was hit by a flash fire in October. It destroyed 703 houses and badly burned five people, of which four died. The only survivor is the sister of Ravi, the IFDE motivator. Her burns, over the back, side, arm and leg are horrible to see. We just hope and pray that over time healing can take place through skin grafting. The government has granted funds to rebuild 338 of the huts.

Being in the YWCA in Chennai always brings surprises. One of them was meeting a wonderful lady, Patricia Baker, from Australia.(She, at one time, lived in Canada, was a member of Gateway Community Church, Toronto, Ontario and still receives Glad Tidings.

Before we left Chennai we were able to spend just a little time with "Roofs for the Roofless" director and team. One new program is a "day care center" for old people and one man, old himself, just about runs the place. This is good, that they should help and support each other. The "alcoholic program" for men, coordinated by the youth worker, is also promising. The usual "self-help" programs, where people get animals, like goats, chickens, etc., is ongoing.

I visited an old friend and "Roofs" board member, Dr. Suniti Solomon, one of India's foremost microbiologists and former lecturer at the Chennai University Medical College, at the clinic where she consults, counsels, and in an adjacent building has started a day care center for AIDS patients. She has been very much involved in preparing material for AIDS education. She has now compiled a book of stories told by AIDS patients and/or their families.

Our next visit was to the Cuttack Diocese. There we visited with Rev. P. Samantharoy and his wife Lilly, went to the Carey Education Center and visited one village, high in the hills. Three hours by car covered the 110 km. journey over winding mountain roads to Balisahi where Jake and I were scheduled to inaugurate a new church building. It is amazing how overjoyed they are that we have come. Not many foreigners venture over these roads to visit these isolated towns. Congregations have to provide the land and erect the building to roof level. The Diocese will then pay for the roof. As there were little or no accoutrements or worship aids in the church, on behalf of some donors we used designated gifts to purchase two brass candlesticks, a brass cross, a Bible stand and Bible and a cloth for the communion table. People were so grateful. I am sure that in this place the Canadian Christians will be mentioned in their prayers.

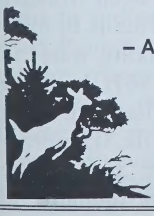
We are Special

I love the way the trees are green,
The colors blend together
I love the world the way it is,
No matter what the weather!

I love the way all birds soar
So high up in the sky,
Sometimes when I watch them,
I wish that I could fly!

It doesn't matter what your culture is,
God's love is here to stay,
'Cause in God's eyes we are all special,
In our own and unique way!

Amanda Carter



– Amanda Carter is a grade four student who attends Knox Presbyterian Church in Kouchibouguac, New Brunswick.

We then went to the newly formed Phulbani Diocese and were billeted with the Rev. Bhagy Naik and her husband Charan, the Diocesan treasurer. The Cuttack Diocese is the poorest in the CNI. Some pastors haven't been paid since the Diocese was formed last April. The area consists of three pastorate Unions each of which has a Superintendent. Bhagy Naik is one of these and in her pastorate Union she has nine pastorates with nine ordained presbyters. Hers is the smallest pastorate union, the largest being of nine pastorates but with 267 congregations.

It is in areas like this that the women, in organized groups, take a lot of the responsibility. They visit new areas and young congregations, continuing the work of evangelization and teaching. They are also very good at conducting "fellowship meetings" where caring and sharing are as important as study and prayer.

From Phulbani we went to Sambalpur Diocese and experienced events and conditions similar to those in Phulbani.

We then spent a week in the Barrackpore Diocese with a quick trip into the Calcutta Diocese also. Barrackpore is pretty well in the same economic condition.

We landed in Bhagalpur and were the guests of Bishop Marandih. Some years ago the PCC and individual members helped build "Sewica", a training school for women. The school is running very well.

In the Diocese we visited many villages and churches. In Bandah we were taken to the Christian hospital, built in 1870 by Presbyterian Church of Scotland missionaries. A 100-bed hospital, it is in danger of being closed before long, unless a volunteer doctor can come for six months or a year to help get it back on track. This little "light of Christ" serves as the only hospital in a 80 km. square area of tribal land, where a half million make their home.

We then went to visit Dr. Murmu at St. Luke's hospital in Hiranpur. I have been asked to request prayer for the hospital and staff. Dr. Murmu is past retirement age and a new doctor has not come. In these tribal areas a female doctor is a priority. The culture dictates this for the care of the women.

We visited a small village called Taljhari. The school, built almost a hundred years ago of unbaked mud bricks is gradually deteriorating to near collapse. The adjacent building has recently been reconstructed, but the villagers have no funds to do any more. What is needed is a three-room block with a verandah, toilets, and a small teachers room. The cost is estimated at Cdn $14,000. The Bishop has challenged the people to raise Rs. 50,000 and we met the challenge by donating Rs. 12,500. Together that is $2,500. Over the years this school has produced over 40 pastors, countless teachers and evangelists, nurses, a Government Federal minister, State minister, high official in Federal police and last, but not least, the current Bishop and his wife. Many of the CNI's Social Service workers are also graduates of this school. The motto is "Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

When we drove back, at night, we realized the terror that people in this State experience. We were stopped at least six times by armed men in jeeps who wanted to check us out. It was scary. On return to Delhi we found that the terror had spread to this city also. Everywhere in India bombs are planted and people killed. We were very happy to get to Jobat, via Indore.

In His love and service,
Margaret and Jake

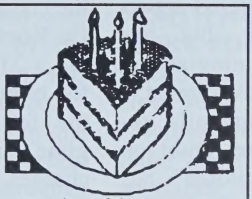
Clarence McMullen
Punjab, India

The following editorial by Clarence McMullen is reprinted from the January 1998 issue Bulletin of the Christian Institute of Religious Studies, Vol. 27, No. 1. It reflects Clarence's concerns about the ecological dangers in the "improvements" which are being made in Indian agriculture, especially in the Punjab which is more "developed" than other parts of India.

Clarence has been for many years on the staff of the Christian Institute for Religious Studies at. Baring Union Christian College in the Punjab, India. The Institute publishes this regular bulletin.

One of the things the Punjabis love is milk. In the morning you see the men of the house going out with their containers to get milk which has been freshly milked in their presence. This is to minimize the possibility of mixing water in it. I came to Punjab in 1967. In those days when I went to the village, the first thing I was offered was milk. The practice still continues to some extent–though now it is fashionable to

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS



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5 - Kennis Kim, Guatemala
9 - Mark Gordon, Mozambique
23 - Glenn Inglis, Malawi
31 - Linda King, India

November
6 - Pamela Young, Malawi
7 - Joe Reed, Central America
16 - Richard Schwarz, Nepal

offer tea, coffee or country brewed liquor. Once I was visiting a farmer in Ontario in Canada. He told me that the Punjabi immigrants settled in that area would come to him to buy fresh milk. He had to decline because of government regulations.

After the Green Revolution in the Punjab the White Revolution has come. The Green Revolution was about food grain and the White Revolution is about milk. The Green Revolution, after initial success, has resulted in weakening of the soil due to indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides. In the beginning the produce increased. But now, to sustain that increase, the soil requires increasing amounts of fertilizers and pesticides every year. The sub-soil water level is also going down at an alarming rate. If the trend continues, and there are no signs to indicate otherwise, in 10 or 15 years Punjab may turn into a desert.

The repercussions of the White Revolution dawned on me recently. During my morning walks I pass by a dairy. On several mornings I noticed the milkman giving injections to his buffalos and cows. On enquiring I found that it was done to increase the milk yield of the animals and also to make the milking process easy. I asked the man who brings our milk if I can have milk from an uninjected cow or buffalo. He told me that it is not possible and all milkmen use the injection. I went to several places which sell milk and found that the practice is prevalent. I also found that this practice is very painful for the animal and the milkmen use the injections indiscriminately without consulting a veterinary doctor. On further enquiry, some veterinarians said the practice was safe; others differed. All agreed that it was very painful to the animal being milked. We have destroyed the soil; now we are destroying the animals. The process of exploitation goes on. First it was more food grain; now it is more milk. The word ‘more’, however, indicates a never ending process. It is never going to be ‘enough’; it is always going to be ‘more’ and ‘more’ and ‘more’. It think it is time we learned to use the word ‘enough’.

This is election time in India. One of the political parties had promised to ban the killing of cows if it comes to power. But no political party has taken up the issue of the gross and cruel exploitation of animals. Killing the cow is wrong but subjecting it to torture twice a day is not a political or social issue.

I also found that milk in Punjab contains dangerously high level of pesticides and other harmful chemicals. These are used in the fields where fodder is grown and eventually find their way to the milk we drink.

The present social and economic system is based on greed. The major characteristic of greed is: the more you feed it the more it increases. If the system continues on the same pattern it will consume itself. -Dr. Clarence O. McMullen

NEWS

SAY SORRY TO ABORIGINES

Sydney, 2 June (ENI)–Relations between Australia's churches and the country's federal government have reached a new low over Prime Minister John Howard's refusal to participate in or acknowledge the national "Sorry Day", held to apologize to Aboriginal people who were taken from their families as children.

Leading church people were some of the main organizers of the Sorry Day, which was held on 26 May–organized to mark the first anniversary of the publication of an official report criticizing a policy, which lasted until the 1960s, of removing Aboriginal children from their families. The government and major church agencies were deeply involved in this policy, which the report, by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, described as an attempt at "genocide".

Australia's governing conservative Liberal-National Party coalition responded to the report with a package of funding for health, housing, infrastructure and family reunion, but has refused to apologize. Prime Minister Howard has offered a personal apology, but has refused to apologize on behalf of the government.

The government's response over the report on the "stolen children" has been one of the major points of disagreement in what has been a gradual worsening of relations with Aboriginal leaders and with the churches who, in recent years, have been at the forefront of campaigning for Aboriginal rights.

All the churches which helped implement government policies separating children from their families have now made formal apologies to indigenous people, and on Sorry Day ecumenical services were held in every state capital.–Margaret Simons

BOTHA IMPLICATED

East London, South Africa, 4 June (ENI)–A convicted assassin for the former South African apartheid regime has told a court that former president P. W. Botha ordered the destruction by bombing of the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) in Johannesburg in 1988.

Eugene de Kock, who headed a death squad which targeted anti-apartheid activists, was testifying on 3 June, against Botha aged 82, in the Regional Court in the coastal town of George. De Kock is currently serving a 212-year prison term for murders sanctioned by the former apartheid regime, and many other charges.

Botha is charged with contempt for refusing to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to explain his role as head of the State Security Council (SSC). The SSC coordinated the crackdown against opponents of apartheid. The TRC is chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a former SACC general secretary.

The contempt hearing has turned into an investigation of Botha's possible complicity in state-sanctioned killings and violence.

Botha denies he ordered the bombing of the SACC headquarters. Apartheid-era government leaders claim that such actions were the work of rogue elements.

Up to 30,000 black anti-apartheid activists were imprisoned during states of emergency declared by Botha.

The hearing continues. – Noel Bruyns

CHURCHES CONFRONTING HIV/AIDS

Blantyre, Malawi, 29 May (ENI)–Christian organizations in Malawi are trying to find ways to deal with the rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS virus in this south-east African nation.

Research funded by the World Bank led to a report late last year that more than 50 per cent of the country's skilled workers may die of AIDS within the next decade. Other official statistics reveal that more than 600,000 people in a total population of nearly 12 million are HIV-positive.

Researchers claim that unprotected sex is the main reason for the spread of the virus in Malawi.

According to 1995 statistics from the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), most of Malawi's people living with AIDS are in the 25 to 34-year-old age group. Researchers said that since between 5-10 years generally elapsed before HIV-positive people developed AIDS, the age group most at risk was 10-19-year-olds.

The government has urged churches to help care for the increasing number of children whose parents have died from AIDS-related diseases.

Reports from the NACP suggest that the total number of deaths from AIDS in Malawi is 200,000, and that the nation now has between 130,000 and 400,000 orphans. – Hobbs Gama

NORTH KOREA FACES MORE FOOD SHORTAGES

New York, 11 May (ENI) –North Korea faces at least three more years of food shortages, according to a North Korean delegation which has just completed a two-week visit to the United States to thank church and development agencies for their assistance.

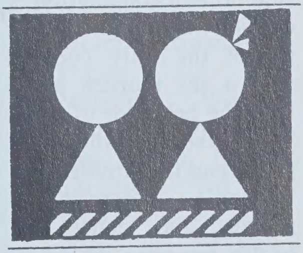
Emphasizing the severity of the food shortages, the North Korean officials were reluctant to detail their nation's economic and political problems. "I'm not here to raise political issues with the United States, I'm here on a humanitarian mission," the delegation's leader, Kim Su Man, told church agency officials at a forum in New York on 1 May. Kim Su Man is the official representative of the US Affairs Section of North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Flood Damage and Rehabilitation Committee.

...aid agencies have estimated that 3.5 million people have already died.

In 1997, according to Kim, North Korea produced less than half of what it needed to feed its population. By last month, North Korea had exhausted its grain supply from the 1997 harvest, making it dependent yet again on international relief until the 1998 harvest in August.

Since 1995, floods, tidal waves and drought have severely tested the communist nation's policy of "self-reliance", which once enabled North Korea to meet the basic needs of its 24 million people.

The United Nations World Food Programme is seeking almost US$380 million in food aid to help feed a targeted population of 7.5 million North Koreans, most of them children, in the 12-month period from 1 April.– Chris Herlinger



- ECPAT Campaign Logo.

"NO SEX TOURISM" CAMPAIGN GETS BOOST

For the second year in a row, the organization End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) and Association to Protect Tourism Quality (APTQ) have had campaigns to combat sex tourism, a type of tourist activity popular with some men which exploits and poses danger to many Southeast Asian women and children. This year, the campaign received a welcome boost by nearly thirteen hundred tourist agents/agencies in Taiwan, who publicly proclaimed their support for the movement, by simultaneously putting up a sign on their doors saying that they are members of the campaign. These tourist agencies promise neither to offer nor to arrange travels involving visits or activities with a sexual nature with prostitutes, local or abroad, adult or child.

These tour agencies' support and cooperation is crucial. ...although Taiwan is not the only country with a sex tourism problem, the behavior of these Taiwanese men when they go abroad is a problem for Taiwan's international image, and cause for health concerns, as many of these men engage in risky sexual behavior with foreign prostitutes, very often underaged ones (child prostitutes), whom they think are 'safer' than the adult prostitutes in terms of contracting diseases.

In their literature warning people about sex tours, the ECPAT and APTQ pointed out that in order to protect oneself and one's [family], and to respect the [female] residents of other countries, sex tourism should not be a travel option. They also warn that, in an age of children's rights, many countries have already signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and if one engages in sexual behavior with a minor one is liable to be prosecuted and punished as a criminal, the most severe punishment being a death sentence.

Said, Mrs. Ruth Kao, chair of ECPAT in Taiwan: "Please have respect for yourself and for others. Exercise your moral sense. Say no to sex tours!"

– Ruth Kao is wife of the former General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and chair of ECPAT.

MARITIME DISASTER VICTIMS

Vancouver, 12 June (ENI) – The 1014 bodies lying in a "maritime cemetery"–a shipwreck at the bottom of the St. Lawrence River–have been saved from plans to disturb their resting place following protests by the Salvation Army and other organizations.

A spokesman for the Salvation Army, Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell Ryan, told ENI that the Quebec government had ruled that the wreck of the Empress of Ireland was "an historic site", thus protecting it from salvage operations.

The Salvation Army, the Museum of the Sea in nearby Rimouski, and tourism operators had protested at plans to blow the ship apart in order to salvage its cargo of nickel ingots worth an estimated C$1 million.

The ship sank in 1914, shortly before the outbreak of World War I. The Salvation Army lost 150 members in the disaster, including its leading brass band and the organization's leaders, all of whom were on their way to an international conference in England.

The Empress of Ireland was rammed in dense fog by a Norwegian collier, the Storstad. Ryan said that the ship had sunk in 14 minutes, taking with it "more passengers than died in the Titanic". Only 465 people survived.

The event was overshadowed by the outbreak of the war, and did not receive the same media attention as the sinking of the Titanic. But in recent years, the site has attracted about 1000 divers a year.

Ryan told ENI that there was a great sense of relief among Salvation Army members that the ship would remain undisturbed. The salvage operator was "disappointed", but unlikely to appeal against the government's decision, Ryan said. – Ferdy Baglo

IN THE SOCIETY

SYNODICAL

Toronto/Kingston ~ you did it again!
Synodical Annual ~ without any rain!
Barrie Presbyterial was host this 1998 -
At St. Andrew's Church, Barrie, the weekend was great!

Registration was Friday night April 17, always a joy to meet "old" friends.

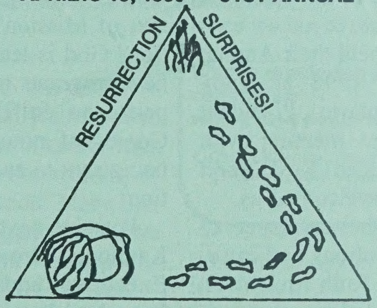
On Saturday, Ellen Heikkila led the singing accompanied by Kathy Tutty. Synodical President Lorna Teare warmly welcomed delegates, visitors and guests. The delightful welcome (in rhyme) from the Barrie Presbyterial President, Jill Pardy, set the tone for the two days.

Opening Worship by East Toronto Presbyterial was taken from the Old Testament.

Bible Study was introduced by Lynda Reid. Groups discussed Personal Reflections on the theme. Business followed.

Marjorie Ross introduced Chief Akpan of Nigeria who is in Canada with her husband. She brought a relevant message about the spiritual crisis in Nigeria. A brief but meaningful "In Memoriam" service was conducted by Jean McIntyre.

TORONTO KINGSTON SYNODICAL
APRIL18-19, 1998 51ST ANNUAL



Luke 24:15-35—The Walk to Emmaus
Hymn—"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"
—Logo designed by Ada Chapman

Special entertainment was a quartet, "The Silvertones".

During the evening service, one highlight was a beautiful solo by Ellen Heikkila, accompanied by Kathy Tutty on piano. Speaker Rev. Rodger Hunter gave marvelous account of Boarding Homes Ministry.

Sunday Executive Meeting was followed by church service conducted by Rev. Allen Aicken. Scriptures were read by Lorna Teare, June Campbell and Jill Pardy.

On Saturday, May 23 a provincial Women's Spring Gathering was held at **St. Andrew's Church, Saskatoon.** The theme for the day was *Unchaining the Gifts*. Thirty-five women gathered to share in an opportunity to discover what some of these gifts are.

Gerri Madill, theme speaker, spoke of her work. As a Standards Developer, she is trying to improve standards in order to help young offenders.

A choice of workshops allowed the participants to learn more about gifts: Peacemaking led by Moira Brown-lee, Prayer led by Margaret Wilson, Sharing led by Margaret Munro, Native Traditions led by Erna Campbell, Language led by Rev. Deborah Lannon, Hymns led by Rev. Annabelle Wallace, and Spiritual Gifts led by Terry Folster.

Gaye Donovan, Terry Folster and Gwen Belyk assisted with music throughout the day. Rev. Catherine Dorcas led opening and closing worship and communion.

It was a wonderful day of inspiration, discussion, fellowship and worship together.

This event was organized by the **Saskatchewan Core Committee WMS** and a committee appointed by the Saskatoon Presbyterial. However the focus was to open it to all women in the church.

PRESBYTERIAL

East Toronto Presbyterial's Spring Rally was held at Iona Church, Toronto, on April 28th. The meeting started with a hymn sing led by Joan Neilson and Lorna Teare. Words of welcome were extended on behalf of the Presbyterial by Noreen Marshall. Rev. J. Biggs of Iona brought greetings from the host church.

Olive Gilliland of Iona led in devotions. Eva Powrie, Literature Secretary, gave a book review and had a display of books for sale. Delegates to the Synodical Annual meeting reported on their impressions of the meeting.

June Stevenson, Editor of Glad Tidings, showed slides of her trip to the Sabeel Conference in Bethlehem and of her visit to the Gaza strip. Although June's slides showed the devastation and sadness of war, she also spoke of the hope of the people.

Essex-Kent Presbyterial held their Annual Meeting on March 18, 1998 at Knox Church, Leamington, Ontario. President Barbara Root opened the meeting with prayer and then introduced Rev. Scott McAndless of Knox who welcomed us.

Isabel Warwick with the assistance of Alice Brown, led the devotions and introduced the theme, *Seeing*. Ruth McDowell of First Church, Chatham led in a memorial service.

Following lunch Alice Brown of St. Andrew's, Windsor introduced guest speakers from the CNIB. Arlene Bailey, district manager and Bonnie Petryschuk, seniors' worker gave us an interesting commentary on the help available for the blind and vision impaired. Our guests were thanked by Bessie Robertson.

Regional Staff, Erin Crisfield installed the new executive and president Ruth Smith led the remainder of the meeting.

The 82nd Annual Meeting of **Kamloops** Presbyterial was held in Vernon, BC May 28-30, 1998. The event was not only hosted by the seven-member Vernon "Vera McCulloch" Group, but for the 12-month period from last June, they *were* the Presbyterial Executive. Much experience in the workings of WMS was gained by each member during this process.

Highlights of the gathering were: a report and slide show from Hubert and Nan Budding after the Friday night dinner, and a Workshop based on Matthew 22: 34-40 on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. This was conducted by the Rev. Charles and Sharon Scott of Gordon Church in Burnaby, BC.

We reflected on changes in our lives today, and the losses our groups are suffering from, and then on a positive note, we met in small groups and discussed "What God is teaching us in and through the context of Mission" and "In what new directions God is leading our Groups and what new programs might be helpful and appropriate to fulfil these new directions". Copies of notes on the "flip chart" are being sent to each group for further reflection.

For the next year, 1998 to 1999, the Kamloops Group will be the Presbyterial Executive and they were installed by Synodical President Rev. Betty McLagan.

President Ada Chapman of Lakehurst welcomed everyone to St. Andrew's Church, Bowmanville on Saturday May 23, 1998 for **Peterborough** Presbyterial Spring Rally. The theme for the day was *Weave Us Together* from Matthew 28: 19-20.

Registration was followed by a singalong with leader Jackie Kelly of Norwood, accompanied on the piano by Helen King of Warkworth.

The meeting was opened with prayer by President Ada Chapman followed with worship by Joan Smith of Port Hope. Joan arranged a bible study "Reweaving Dreams".

Rev. Hugh Donnelly welcomed us to his church. We were then favoured by a solo and duet by Hugh and his wife Laura with Hugh providing the accompaniment on guitar.

A delicious lunch was served by the Bowmanville Ladies and the Book Table was available for purchases.

After lunch and another singalong the Synodical Report was given by President Ada Chapman, Joan Lucas, St. Paul's, Peterborough, Cecilia Morris, Cobourg and Jean Coull of Cobourg.

The Ladies of St. Andrew's, Bowmanville, presented a Fashion Show "Women of the Bible", a very delightful presentation.

The meeting closed with courtesies given by Joan Billen of Burnbrae, followed by prayer.

International Ministries was the theme of **London** Presbyterial Annual Retreat held at Pearce Williams Christian Centre, Iona May 7, and conducted by the women of New St. James Church, London. Mary Lou McKay presided, Helen Hoggarth and Eva Murray led the singalong and worship was led by Sylvia Finch and Helen Caldwell.

"Reflections on a Mission Trip to Guatemala" that was taken with a group of young people from the area was presented by Rev. Don McInnis and Evelyn Patchett.

A bag lunch and fellowship, dancercise with Kay Eichenberger, singalong, and the Book Review with Marion Orchard followed. The afternoon speaker, Winn Files, reminisced with her slides and stories of life as a daughter of a mission family in India, "Faithfulness and Sacrifices of the Bhil Christians in India". She and Dr. Files visited India in March of this year and her memories were touching.

Mission study and courtesies concluded a beautiful day in May.

I'm on a Committee!

Oh give me your pity, I'm on a committee
which means that, from morning to night,
we attend and amend and contend and defend,
without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur
and re-iterate all of our thoughts.

We revise the agenda with frequent addenda,
and consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,
and the points of procedure are fun.

But though various notions are brought up as motions,
there's terrible little gets done!

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve,
since it's out of the question for us.

What a shattering pity to end our committee
where else could we make such a fuss?

Author unknown, "borrowed" from the The Tapis' War Widows Guild, Australia and from the Pinelands Church bulletin.

Montreal Presbyterial sponsored a Triennium Spring Tea on Saturday May 9, 1998 at the Presbyterian College in Montreal. Cream scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam were served as well as squares and cookies.

One thousand dollars was realized from the sale of tickets, a bake table and a book table. This money will be available to help send young people to the Triennium which is being held at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana in July.

Henny Donkersteeg, assisted by secretary, Donna Wilson, presided at the May Rally of **Brockville** Presbyterial held at Knox, Morrisburg. Members of the Brockville group, Audrey Sine, Eleanor Duncan, and Mary Campbell, conducted the worship service on the theme of the day, *Tongues of Fire*, the infilling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Rev. Gregory Blatch organized a Bible study on the same theme. Betty and Cliff Barkley of Chesterville entertained with musical selections accompanied by guitar.

Joye Platford, a student at Presbyterian College, spoke of her summer plans as she works on the Seaway-Glengarry Presbytery's outreach project in the Casselman area. Ann Blane, regional staff, told of her recent trip to India, using slides to supplement her presentation.

Pianist for the day was Beatrice Shaver; Lois Beaton gave the courtesies throughout the day.

The Spring Rally of **Sarnia** Presbyterial was held on May 12, at Laurel Lea-St. Matthew's Church, Sarnia. A potluck supper was enjoyed by all to begin a most inspirational evening.

Literature secretary Margaret Smith displayed a variety of books for viewing and purchase.

The evening speaker was Rev. David Smith, director of Evangel Hall, Toronto, who explained what this out-reach is all about. The evening offering was given to Evangel Hall.

Special music was presented by Marilyn Shaw on the piano, and a lovely solo by Laurel Liddicoat-Newton. The closing worship ended the evening with the benediction given by the host minister, Rev. Ian Johnston.

West Toronto Presbyterial held their Spring Rally on May 9th at Albion Gardens Church. Rev. Sarah Kim, minister of the host church, led in prayer after which a wonderful pot luck lunch was enjoyed.

President Bev McWhinnie welcomed everyone after lunch. Worship was led by Dorothy Hopper and Carolyn Jones. The Financial report was given by Lorna Henderson. Reports from Synodical were received from Elizabeth Heath, Eleanor Dean, Dorothy Clark and Mary MacLellan.

Nan and Hubert Budding were guest speakers. They showed slides of Nepal and told many interesting stories about their experiences. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Breaking the Chains of Injustice was the theme for the Spring Rally of **Maitland** Presbyterial held in Belmore on May 11.

Following a salad supper at the Community Centre everyone moved to the church for the meeting.

President Shirley McCall welcomed everyone.The children from the Belmore Sunday School provided special music.

The worship service, on the theme, was conducted by Marguerite Beirnes and Audrey Adair of the Molesworth afternoon group.

Short gleanings from the Synodical were given by Isabel Arbuckle, Wilma Clarke and Marjorie Deyell. Catherine MacDonald and Isabel Arbuckle of Wingham led the In Memoriam Service.

Isabel Jeffray of Belmore was recognized for her contribution to the work of the WMS with an Honorary Membership Certificate.

Guest speaker Anna McCoskery with the use of slides, short videos and mementoes, shared some of her experiences at the 23rd General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Hungary in August 1997.

Erlma Haldenby thanked the speaker and Helen Elliott gave the courtesy remarks.

Following the closing hymn Wilma

Clarke of South Kinloss closed with prayer.

Westminster Presbyterial executive hosted a Coffee Party on May 26 to meet Trish Heidebrecht, the new manager of The Book Room. She had brought numerous books in order to show us the diverse topics available, and browsing was the first order of business.

Trish shared her thoughts, hopes, and dreams for The Book Room which will combine the WMS Book Room and the Resource Distribution Centre. The staff working there will be fully knowledgeable about all the resources available. The Book Room is a service that reflects Christian ethics. One Stop Shopping will be available as of September 1, 1998.

The electronic age has arrived at The Book Room–with e-mail, a 1-800 number, and the use of Mastercard and VISA. President Barbara Marshall thanked everyone for coming and Sharon Scott closed with prayer.

The 44 women who attended **Westminster** Presbyterial Friendship Luncheon on June 6, 1998 at Knox Church, New Westminster were warmly welcomed by President Barbara Marshall. She then read the "Indian Prayer" concluding with grace. Sandwiches prepared by the women of Knox were followed by a variety of sweets provided by some of the WMS groups.

Grace Murdoch, Literature Secretary, had a table of Christian Literature on display. The women had been encouraged to donate good used books from their libraries, and then to buy Christian books others had donated. Grace gave a short introduction into this year's study material.

Synodical President, Rev. E. McLagan brought greetings from Synodical, and later spoke on the new features of The Book Room at Wynford Drive.

Council Highlights were presented by Barbara Marshall. Ernestine Allan taught three songs from the new Hymn Book. Barbara thanked all who had participated in the program.

Two 100th birthdays were celebrated at Willowdale Church, one on May 11 and one on May 22. **Annie Lawrie**, pictured on the right, became a member of Cooke's Presbyterian Church in 1927, and joined Willowdale Church in 1982. She is active in the WMS and knits mitts, hats, baby clothes, and pneumonia vests for various mission projects.

Jack Carlyle, pictured on the left, is an elder, a life member of the WMS, well-known for his dedication to the church, support of mission projects, his humour, and for his work with CBC radio for many years.

Both Annie and Jack attend worship at Willowdale Church each Sunday.

LOCAL

The Grace Stewart WMS of **St. Columba Church, Vancouver**, celebrated Easter with a special program arranged by Kay Berry, under the title *Easter Story in Verse*. This detailed our Lord's life from his birth to his death, using excerpts from the gospels and illustrated by poems written by Kay Berry.

Marilyn Blain, director of music for the church, sang a solo, "I come to the garden alone" to close the inspirational program.

Mrs. **Mary Yuen** went peacefully to her Lord, April 28, 1998. She was 91 years of age. She had been an Honorary Life Member of the Women's Missionary Society since December 5, 1952.

She will be missed by her five sons, Douglas (Sui), Fred (Florence), Gordon–an Elder at Vancouver Chinese Presbyterian Church–(Sue), Robert (Rose), Gilbert (Joyce), and three daughters, Jeanne (Balt), Beatrice (Wayne), Gracie (Larry); and 25 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; five sisters, two brothers and many friends.

Mary is fondly remembered for her unselfish devotion to her extended family. A memorial service was held Tuesday, May 5, 1998 in Vancouver, B.C.

Edith Ellen Dickey died March 7, 1998 in her 100th year, in the Kemptville District Hospital, Ontario. Edith Ellen Francis was born in Orillia, Ontario on March 16, 1898. She attended Public and High School in Orillia Peterborough Normal (Teacher's College). She taught for nine years until her marriage to a Presbyterian Minister, Rev. Dr. Gardner Dickey on October 12, 1926.

As a minister's wife, her work in the congregations required all her time and energy. In Vernon, Ontario, Rosetown, Saskatchewan, Kamloops and New Westminster, British Columbia, and finally Selkirk, Manitoba she served in the Ladies Aid, Women's Missionary Society and as a Sunday School teacher. She was Mission Band leader and Superintendent of Cradle Roll and was a Life Member of the WMS. The choir, the WMS, the Sunday School teachers and all the Youth Groups were welcomed on many occasions in the manse. She was the oldest member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Kemptville. Her husband, Rev. Dr. Gardner Dickey, predeceased her July 7, 1963 in Selkirk

(Continued on page 47.)

CIRCULATION NEWS

By now the Glad Tidings summer mailing should have arrived in your congregation. This mailing was sent in August to the Glad Tidings Secretary/contact person we have listed by your group. It contains the subscription lists and ideas for promotion. If by mid-September the Glad Tidings secretary in your congregation has not received the mailing she should check with the local post office or contact our office.

September is when you need to consider renewing your subscription for 1999. You can help by having your subscription money ready to give to the GT secretary when she starts collecting. Subscribers should also check their address on the subscription list to make sure it is correct.

If there is someone in your congregation who would like to subscribe to Glad Tidings but cannot afford to, perhaps the group can give them a gift subscription. It is also available in Large Print (photocopy), encouraged for only those who have problems reading the regular sized print, and on cassette tape for the visually impaired.

Glad Tidings is for everyone not just WMS groups. So, it is up to all subscribers to promote the magazine and help increase the number of subscriptions.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

Manitoba, where he ministered for 19 years.

She is survived by her three daughters: Norah Taylor, Dorothy Burton, and Moira Anderson, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Grace Stewart WMS of **St. Columba, Vancouver**, was privileged to have Betty Siverns as guest speaker at our May meeting. Betty spoke with much interest of her experience while living in Lebanon, where her husband Dr. L. Siverns was a lecturer at the theological college there. We were certainly given a good picture of what it was like to be a Christian in that troubled part of the world.

On Monday June 8th, an interesting evening was sponsored by the **Grace Stewart** WMS as part of a peaceful "reconciliation", as one of the women put it, when the United Church Women's group of Canadian Memorial United Church came to our church to hear our special "combo" music, and to listen to Rev. Murat Kuntel give his testimony on how he converted from Islam to Christianity and eventually found his way into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

On both counts it was considered that this peaceful joining of women from the United and Presbyterian Churches, coupled with the inspiring story told by Rev. Kuntel (who is minister of St. Columba, Vancouver) was a wonderful outreach for our group. We enjoyed the music, the talk and the fellowship.

- Moderator of the 123rd General Assembly Rev. John Congram presents the new Book of Praise to Nigerian Presbyterians: Elder Chief N. U. Akpan and Elder Chief Margaret Akpan.

Correction: On page 22 of the July/August 1998 Glad Tidings, bottom right, it was incorrectly stated that **Margaret (Peggy) Ramsay** spent a year in Taiwan. In fact Peggy went to Taiwan in 1928 and returned to Canada in 1940. Evelyn Murdoch's name was also incorrectly spelled.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Jean Johnson
Appin, ON

Winnifred K. Yeates,
Knox, Guelph, ON

Mrs. Susan Bruinooge,
First, Portage la Prairie, MB

Miss Anne McIntosh,
St. Peter's, Madoc, ON

Mrs. Helen Bennett,
(Oakville, ON)
St. Paul's, Port Hope, ON

Mrs. Grace Wildfong,
St. Mark's, Orillia, ON

Mrs. Helen Forrest,
St. Andrew's, Sarnia, ON

Miss Mae Skinner,
North Caradoc, Strathroy, ON

Carlotta M. (Pat) Buie,
St. Andrew's, Thunder Bay, ON

Ellen Feasby,
Glenview, Toronto, ON

Your Partners. . .

Many doctors would not dream of entering the villages in India. The villages are often viewed as dangerous. Besides, they are too difficult to get to, do not have the proper facilities, and th people can not pay very much. In addition the villagers often don't trust the doctors. PWS&D's partner, the Institute for Development Education, has worked hard at getting doctors to work with the people in the villages and slums around Madras. Dr. Yacob, pictured here, has now been working in the villages for over five years. He conducts clinics where he treats conditions like anemia, tuberculosis, and parasites. He also teaches about primary health care—proper nutrition, sanitation and immunization. The village has grown to love and trust him, as he has grown to love and trust them.

PWS&D's community development partners in Africa, India and Central America are working to help people secure brighter futures for themselves and for their children. PWS&D depends on your donations as it receives no funds from *Presbyterians Sharing*. . . . .With matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency of 3:1 for development programs and 4:1 for emergency relief, your donation goes a long way.*To make a donation or for more information contact:*

Presbyterian World Service & Development

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Glad Tidings

November/December 1998

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Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS (WD) or by the Editor.

Inside: Christmas Worship
Christmasy Material

Gifts of the Heart...

November 1998

Giving gifts fills me with warmth and joy. As I grow older I don't pay a lot of attention to the price or even whether the gift is new. In these days of recycling there are many more opportunities to be creative in gift giving. Last Christmas a friend gave me a tiny brass sculpture of a mother cat holding a kitten in her mouth. Unapologetically she said "I saw it in an antique shop and it had your name on it!"

Don't keep all your treasures until you are gone. Give them to others you know will enjoy them now and love them as you have. Mother gave me a lovely silver pocket watch my father had picked up in Europe during the 2nd World War. I had it cleaned, reset and mounted and gave it to my younger brother as a reminder of our childhood. Have a family heirloom restored, a doll, a ring, a photograph and give it to someone who is part of its history.

Unexpected gifts are the most delightful. Sometimes I give a gift to someone on *my* birthday. "Just because..." is a good enough explanation. Don't give your secret away. Send your mother, a bouquet of flowers on *your* birthday. She will know why.

I appreciate things like being awakened with a cup of coffee on an ordinary Saturday morning when my daughter is home. People who live alone know how nice it is when someone else does the little ordinary things. Some, especially those who have been widowed, can use a hug when you visit. It's something they can't give themselves.

Give a gift to the child in someone. One Christmas I received three cuddly bears, having mentioned never having one as a child. Last year I got a train set (my brothers always did when we were little!). That train set will run around my Christmas tree this year and someday perhaps my "hoped for" grandchildren will play with it.

Even gift wrapping doesn't require expensive bows and paper. Wrap a kitchen item in a tea towel. Put something inexpensive in a carved wooden box or in an antique container. Use that lovely wrap from floral arrangements or even the Saturday comics. Add a tree ornament, a pine cone or a household gadget instead of a bow.

Those with children know how special a handmade gift is. That clay vase or papier mache bowl stays on the shelf long after other gifts have lost their lustre. Gifts of the hand are gifts of the heart. Kay Curtis says in "By Hand" p 15, "love works through my hands." I will pray for my son and his fiancee this Christmas season as I crochet an afghan for their home.

Some gifts come with unspoken prayers: a friend who gave me the keys to her apartment when she knew I needed a refuge; another who loaned me her car. They taught me that the gift of friendship is more important than material goods.

During painful times, when a death or separation occurs, sometimes the only gift you can give is the presence of your company. Or a phone call to say, "I was thinking of you". You may brighten an otherwise lonely, empty day.

One of our writers, a senior whom I've never met, recently sent me a tape on which she chatted as if we were in the same room. She played old favourite songs and hymns, ending up with some Christmas carols. She will know when she reads this how much her gift has delighted me!

Gifts like these are gifts of the heart, given because you care - because Someone cares for you. This Christmas, and next year, think twice before you go shopping for gifts. Is there something else you can do to give a gift of lasting value?

Written in Love
June.

A Challenge From the President:

Esther Powell

We as members of the Women's Missionary Society are "Women with a mission" and a vital arm of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Our monthly "meeting times" should reflect our zeal to encourage all people of the church to be involved in local and world-wide mission.

The following are a few suggestions to help you in your hearty and persistent efforts.

- Be flexible, bring variety to your meetings.

- Be creative in the presentation of the programs. This gives fresh motivation and stimulates enthusiasm.

- Be sure every meeting includes "something special" using the gifts and talents of the people in your congregation.

- Turn "mundane" things into special "adventures in mission".

- Your meetings do not have to be held the same day and time each month - vary the days and times, broadening the opportunities for people to come.

- There may be "nothing wrong with the way you are doing things", but, this should not prevent you from following "new paths", climbing "higher" mountains, "exploring" new areas, always seeking better ways.

- At least once a year, strive to bring the women of your congregation together, and, share ideas for "meeting times"; and, yes, take those "way out" ideas, use them, and turn them into a great "mission experience".

- Make your "offering time" special. Focus on some specific area where your gifts will be used. The "Sharing in Mission" section of the "pink" WMS Annual Report can be helpful for ideas.

- Be "VISIBLE" - Let people see you actively involved in "Service for the King".

- Have your "executive" installed into office at a Sunday morning hour of worship, thus reminding all of the important role you play in the life and mission of the church.

- The Presbyterial of "South Saskatchewan" have committed themselves to time on Thursday mornings for "Prayer for the Society"! How wonderful if all of us from Quebec to British Columbia would set aside prayer time each Thursday morning uniting ourselves with the women in Saskatchewan. What better way to bring about "Renewal"!

Hope to the Hopeless

by Nicholas Hunter

Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh. With a population of over 14 million people, most of whom are living in appalling conditions, the situation is rife for many diseases to spread. Notable amongst these is leprosy. Nicholas Hunter, the Communications Director for The Leprosy Mission Canada travelled to Bangladesh in November 1997 where he spent two weeks in the slums of this sprawling city, where The Leprosy Mission Canada and CIDA are co-funding a major Leprosy Control Project to the inhabitants of these areas. The following is adapted from his field report.

Bangladesh, a country synonymous with grinding poverty, natural disasters and severe under-development, has experienced a vast growth in its urban population with the relentless stream of people leaving the rural areas in search of basic survival in the Metropolitan cities.

The result is that in most towns and cities in Bangladesh the majority live in overcrowded and ever-increasing slums, with little or no access to the most basic services, including clean safe water, sanitation, basic health care or education.

Nowhere is the relentless poverty more harshly felt than in the lives of countless hundreds of thousands of people living in the vast and squalid slums of Dhaka City.

Leprosy can be cured

The TLM Dhaka Leprosy Control Project (DLCP) was set up in early 1996 to provide leprosy care services to countless leprosy sufferers in Dhaka City.

The team consists of a Field Director, Medical Director and 17 Leprosy Control Assistants (LCAs). Their role is to enter the 10 major camps/slums, make contact with local community leaders, go from shack to shack, searching for victims of leprosy and refer them to the nearest medical clinic.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh was a country formed out of chaos in 1975 following a War Of Liberation between the occupying units of the Pakistani army and Bengali freedom fighters, who were aided and abetted by the army from neighboring India. The current population of Bangladesh is in excess of 124 million people living in a geographical area that is smaller than the Province of Ontario.

The World Health Organization rates Bangladesh as having the third highest prevalence rate of leprosy in the world - only behind India and Brazil. Leprosy dates back almost 5,000 years. It attacks the nerves of the body, rendering the victim anaesthetized to pain, temperature and, most importantly, touch.

Because of the enormous stigma and prejudice attached to the disease, victims of leprosy are often afraid to come forward, thus risking deformity to themselves as well as the possibility of infection to others.

The Control Project has established 10 clinics in the slums of this crowded and noisy city. It was anticipated that 300 new cases each year would be detected in the five-year duration of the Project. Already the numbers have far exceeded these expectations. In the past 12 months, over 550 people with leprosy have been identified and have started their treatment.

The extent of the poverty experienced by those for whom there is simply no other alternative, came as little surprise to our project field staff. What they had not anticipated was the number of children under the age of 14, who in addition to their desperately poor circumstances were also suffering from leprosy.

Dr. Christopher Baroi is the Medical Field Director. He and I talked at great length about his vision for a cooperative venture that he sees as a natural outcome of the Project's work.

"Deformed patients cannot do a normal job," he says, "and mentally they are very depressed. Also, they do not undertake proper or adequate self-care. BUT, I truly believe that they can help themselves if we give them a goal. Let us help create a group where all patients - both deformed and cured ones - can educate each other, encourage each other, as well as checking up on each other to see if they are following doctor's orders!"

All 17 Leprosy Control Assistants have undergone an intensive 10-week training period prior to their going into the slums. Their knowledge of leprosy enables them to teach the basics symptoms as well as being able to identify the more obvious signs of the disease on a patient e.g. hypopigmented patches on the surface of the skin and ulcerated feet. It does not enable them to diagnose a patient. This decision is always left to the Medical Field Director or the Leprosy Control Officer, Wilson Baroi.

Leprosy is not hereditary.

The Physio-Technician, Mr. Prince Das accompanies the different teams, visiting patients in their homes as well as being available at the clinics. He is a remarkably gifted and gracious man whose dedication to the Project and to the team is a shining example.

Mr. Romesh Modol, the Project's footwear technician, makes on average four pairs of sandals each day, with the microcellular rubber being purchased from Bata. Romesh is a skilled worker who is able to produce high quality footwear that the patients are extremely thankful for. They are styled and do not 'look' like sandals tailor-made for those with leprosy.

The impact of the stigma and prejudice associated with leprosy are reflected in the localized communities. In Hazirabad, for instance, the impact of leprosy on the community's structure is minimal; at Geneva Camp, the opposite is the case.

Argagaon slum can be summed up in one word - enormous! Enormous problems, enormous numbers of people living in enormous squalor and poverty. Within the equivalent area of eight Canadian blocks, 400,000 eke out a living. The numbers of rickshaws can lead one to believe that this is some form of a desolate graveyard for overworked and useless rickshaws. Not so!

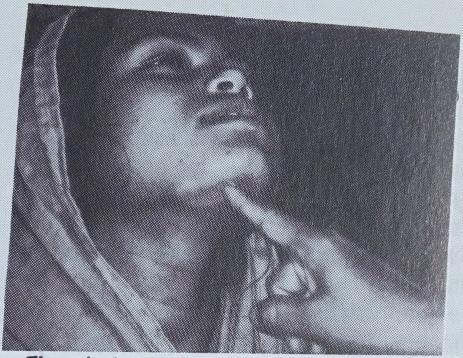
In a city where two million rickshaw pullers work, many of them can be found in Argagaon slum. The majority of people living here are Pakistanis who got left behind after the War of Liberation.

Thanks to the Mission's Rapid Survey team, the 400,000 inhabitants of Arkagaon, a camp on the outskirts of the city, are now aware of the possible presence of leprosy in their midst and are changing their attitudes to leprosy. Quietly, many with severe deformities came forward who had had the disease for many years. Thankfully, there were also those who came bearing the early signs of leprosy. All will be cured.

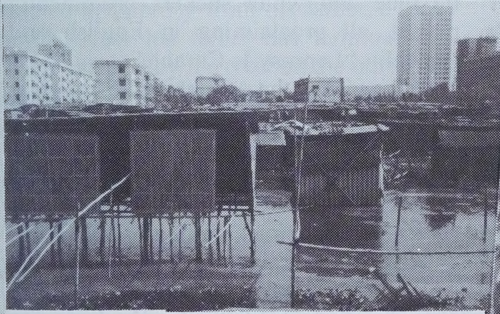
At another camp, Hazaribad, I personally witnessed four people push forward out of a crowd and publicly approach the Team and ask whether they had leprosy. They did indeed. They have all now started their treatment and are well on the way to being completely cured.

Likewise, Prevention of Disability (POD) cannot be left to the 'whim' of the individual. It is a relentless struggle to get patients activated into Self-care. I personally saw several Ulcer Clinics, where patients had failed to exercise the prescribed care for the deformities on their feet. The reason? The individuals have more 'pressing needs', i.e. how to earn

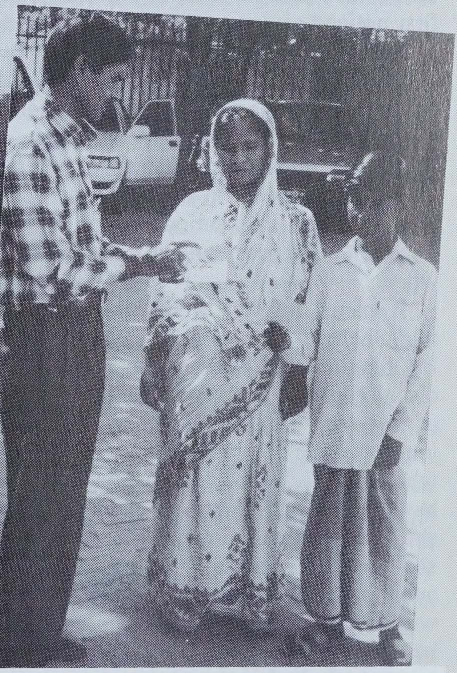
- Patients with chronic foot ulcers wait to have their wounds cleaned and dressed at the Mirpur clinic.



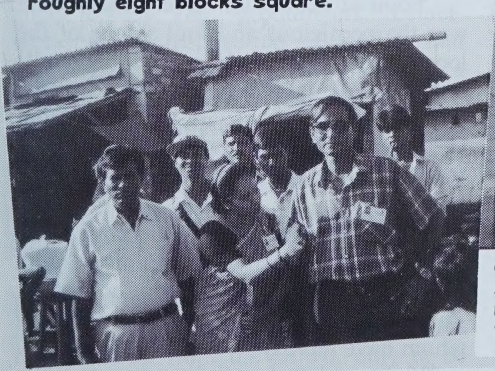
- The obvious signs of leprosy. This 14 year-old girl has a large patch on her face. She was caught in time and will be cured. But there are many more like her waiting to receive the cure.



- The outskirts of Geneva Camp, which is home to 400,000 people. The camp is roughly eight blocks square.



- Shahida Begum and her 12 year-old son, Masun, travel each month to the clinic at Mirpur to receive the antibiotics that will eventually cure their leprosy.



- A Team from The Dhaka Leprosy Control Project painstakingly goes from to house to house looking for victims of leprosy.

enough money each day as a rickshaw driver in order to buy food for the family and pay the rent.

Driving a rickshaw is catastrophic to the leprosy sufferer, due to the constant use - sometimes 15 hours a day - when the driver must pedal all over the city and so seriously endanger any healing of his feet that might be taking place.

Let me tell you the story of Shahida and her son, Mansun, whom I met at the clinic at Mirpur.

Shahida lives 50 kms outside Dhaka in another camp, called Adamjee. Her husband works at the local jute-mill where he earns 1,000 taka per month (CAN$25). She first noticed some patches on her skin and visited the local doctor. He informed her that she had a disease - of course, it wasn't leprosy! - for which she needed medication. Reluctantly she took out a loan of 5,000 taka. She reckons that it will take her another three years to fully pay off her loan. The medication had no effect on her leprosy and she grew worse.

Leprosy is a treatable medical condition.

A camp dweller from Dhaka told Shahida of the Project team. By this time, Shahida also noticed discolored skin patches on the face of her son, Masun. Together they journeyed the 50 kms to the Mirpur clinic, where she was correctly diagnosed as having leprosy. She was struck dumb when she was told that the medication was free - she was expecting to have to take out yet another loan! In two years time, Shahida will be cured and so will Masun, who will be able to fulfil his life's ambition of becoming a barber.

Another camp, Balurgha, is 'home' to some 2,000 families comprised of over 7,000 people. The conditions defied description and logic. The stench was overwhelming and the pathways dangerous to walk along, since here was the ever-present possibility of slipping into the gullies on either side of the pathway which were filled with rotting garbage and raw sewage - the norm in every slum we saw

Equally, there was the danger of cutting oneself on the corrugated roofs that came very low across the pathway. I had heard of a film cameraman who arrived in Dhaka on the Saturday. On Monday he was whisked hurriedly to Bangkok and then directly back to the UK. He had contracted Hepatitis, simply by being in Dhaka!

There was a strong awareness among the inhabitants that leprosy was curable. The Rapid Survey Team had obviously done a good job. There was ample evidence of this as I could see posters and little blue and white stickers prominently placed, all proclaiming in English and Bengali - "Leprosy Is Curable".

I also visited the Alfalah clinic, which is run by a Muslim organization. Once again, it was good to see the close cooperation, not only between different agencies, but this time of different religions, uniting to help solve the leprosy problem.

We drove along innumerable and identical streets. The lanes are small, dusty and crowded to the point of exhaustion. Everywhere there was the pernicious and foul stench of the local tanning factory. We passed shops selling evil-looking fish and strange looking substances in grubby jars. In this setting Hazaribad clinic lies. It is co-run by World Vision who allow DLCP space on their premises.

I arrived to find about 20 leprosy cases already waiting. There were many with severe deformities, particularly foot ulcers. There was one family of four, three of whom have leprosy.

When we left the clinic, we were taken to the slums. What I saw outside the camp, and by the river, was physically and emotionally disturbing. The sheer scale of misery and poverty hits like a punch. I encountered one of the women I had met in the morning with her two young children. She had multibacillary leprosy which is the more severe type of the disease.

Her husband had abandoned her. Then her bamboo 'house' burnt down and she was forced to live with her mother, who was already living in a shack with six family members. They are under the close eye of the Rapid Survey Team - but who knows if they too will get leprosy.

I also met little Shahid again, bright-eyed and smiling. He is another multibacillary patient, only eight years old, and comes regularly to the clinic. He contracted his leprosy from his father, a locksmith. Now his father has terminal TB. Their shack is by the river on the other side of a small dam. When the monsoons come, all of the slum dwellers' belongings will be swept into the river on one side of the dam, or into the sewage lying on the other.

Victims do not have to live in leper colonies.

One evening the Project Team had scheduled a Community Information Program close to Alfalah clinic. These are open-air slide shows followed by discussion about leprosy. The 'groundwork' of networking and distribution of leaflets had gone successfully the days before and a large crowd of more than 500 people crowded into a minute area.

The show was postponed twice - first there was a power blackout within the slum. (The locals had installed an 'illegal' supply of electricity that fed off the main supply and they were agreeable to letting us have some power to work the projector.)

When the power was restored a great roar went up from the crowd, only to be silenced a minute later when the power went off again! This time we had to wait for the main supply to be restored. This daily occurrence in Dhaka is hard to comprehend.

This particular slide show, called "Manik's Story", is the true story of a young boy who catches leprosy. He encounters a Rapid Survey Team and takes them to his father, a rickshaw puller, who also has the disease. Father is initially very reluctant to attend the clinic and admit to having the disease - he is scared of the stigma and prejudice. But his son assures him that he will be cured that since it is caught in time, there will be no physical deformities. It is an excellent presentation.

The next day, over 15 people came voluntarily to the clinic - eleven of whom were confirmed as having the disease.

The timing of the film show is critical to coincide with the nearest clinic being open the very next day. Within the space of three days, people are contacted, informed, and referred.

Each member of the team was well versed about leprosy. Using visual aids and leaflets, team members were obviously at ease in sharing the news about the disease to both small and large crowds.

Again, it was encouraging to see so many posters proclaiming "Leprosy Is Curable" strategically placed at main intersections or tea-shop doorways. Those slum dwellers with whom I spoke, through an interpreter, knew about leprosy and what to look for. Most importantly, they knew the location of the nearest clinic, where possible victims could be referred.

The Dhaka Leprosy Control Project is helping to ensure that leprosy sufferers regain human dignity and self-respect lost through leprosy. As one of them said to me through an interpreter: "I cannot believe that you, a foreigner, would want to come into our camps and be interested in us as people. Thank you so much."

COVER STORY:

Catriona LeMay Doan: An Inspiring Role Model!

by Bernice Shih

Catriona LeMay Doan, a native of Saskatoon and formerly active in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church School, won the Gold medal in the 500 meter and the Bronze medal in the 1,000 meter in speedskating at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. She is the Reigning Women's World Cup Champion in both these distances.

Catriona's mother, Shona LeMay, described her daughter as one who was open to suggestions for growth. When Catriona voiced an interest in ringette and later in speed skating, her family supported her. Her grade 4 teacher described Catriona as having charm and perseverance, but also the modesty never to talk about her skating accomplishments with her peers.

That interest began to be cultivated in 1980, when Catriona was ten and she joined the Lions Speed Skating Club in Saskatoon. Soon afterwards she discovered a great aptitude and love for the sport. Her parents encouraged her with the philosophy to try a bit of everything and to choose what she liked best. This philosophy obviously paid off.

Initially Catriona trained at the rink located within minutes of the LeMay home; but before long Shona was driving her daughter way across the city to the Oval for regular practices in minus 40 degree weather.

The family support system was challenged, but it did not break. Catriona maintains she has succeeded at what she wanted to do because she was never forced to do it; but always encouraged and supported by her parents.

Shona LeMay, with traditional Scottish Presbyterian values, believed it was important to nurture her children through a religious education. Catriona was involved in the church school and junior choir at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for a time. As speed skating demands took over, her church school involvement tapered off; however whether Catriona was involved in a neighbourhood church children's program, or in a religious education program in school, her mother took care to evaluate the kind of teaching she would receive.

In 1988, shortly after completing high school, Catriona made the Canadian National Team. She moved to Calgary in order to take advantage of the Olympic training facilities there. While she was only 17 and on her own, her values had been established and now stood her in good stead. At the Olympics in 1994, Catriona finished 14th.

Two years later, at the 17th Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, her progress was marred by a fall. While she may have been discouraged, two days later she was on her skates again, competing. She proved to herself that she could do it. An important source of support that year was Met Life who sponsored her after the fall, and who sponsored other amateur athletes as well. Before the end of 1994, Catriona had improved on past records.

During her training in Calgary, Catriona participated in a Christian ministry, under the leadership of a lay minister, who later became her father-in-law. She attributes the strengthening of her faith to many discussions with him. She was deeply encouraged by the financial support and encouragement by this group of Christians when she went to compete at Lillehammer.

Catriona also became involved with a Christian Sports Organization called Athletes in Action. She says that her faith has taught her how to enjoy her skating.

Catriona maintains that you do everything you can to prepare, but then you don't worry about the results. Certainly this approach has worked for her.

Catriona's faith has taught her how to enjoy her skating.

She has also received enormous support and encouragement from her husband, Bart Doan. Bart is a professional rodeo rider, as well as a part-time rancher on their farm outside Calgary. They met at the Olympic Oval in Calgary, where he takes care of the ice.

In November, 1997, Catriona participated in four World Speed Skating events in Calgary, including the 500 meter race. She set a world record and confirmed her position for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. It was the first time that a woman had ever beaten the record of 38 seconds in that event.

This feat followed World Cup medals in each of the past five seasons. Catriona trained with determination under her coach, Derrick Auch. Her toughest rival was Susan Auch (Derrick's sister). The friendly rivalry spurred Catriona on to victory and they were able to wish each other luck.

The revolutionary clap skate, with its hinged toe to enable skaters to go faster, gave Catriona more control and speed in her skating. The Calgary Olympic Oval (built for the 1988 Games) is the biggest reason for Canada's recent success in the sport. The Oval is the fastest ice in the world and it helps skaters cope with high speeds. Because it is open for ten months of each year, skaters have a much longer training season than is possible elsewhere.

When Catriona returned from the Olympic Winter Games victory in Nagano, part of her schedule included: a welcome home party in Calgary, a news conference in Toronto, dropping the puck at the Toronto Maple Leafs - New York Rangers games, a guest spot on the Gemini Awards and the Dini Petti Show, and a photo shoot.

Such fame is not important to Catriona. She says she found more pleasure in the ordinary Canadian's display of pride in having an Olympic medallist.

Canadian athletes do not have the opportunities the Americans do in securing million dollar endorsements. To get endorsement, Catriona, one has to sell oneself and she is not comfortable with that. She shares with other athletes a great love for their sport, a pride in being able to do what they are doing, and having the choice to participate for that, not money.

During an overwhelming welcome to Saskatoon, Catriona enjoyed a Civic Luncheon, and meeting with school children as well as the public. She learned that $10,000 has been donated to create an endowment fund (to which donations can be added) in her name, to encourage young people in Saskatoon.

What an inspiring role model for young people today! An Olympic winner, with a deep Christian faith, determination never to give up, and who deeply appreciates the value system, support and confidence instilled in her by her parents.

Bernice Shih is a member of Council Executive and convenor of the Editorial Working Group.

Daring Hope:
A Celebration of The Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in Church and Society
by L. June Stevenson

When over 700 women, men and children from Canada and many corners of the world, converged on the campus of Guelph University, Guelph, Ontario, from August 26-30, the spirit in the wind was hope. Hopes and dreams for the decades to come.

The walls of the plenary room were covered with long swatches of fabric in primary colours, and various banners and quilts fashioned for the celebration.

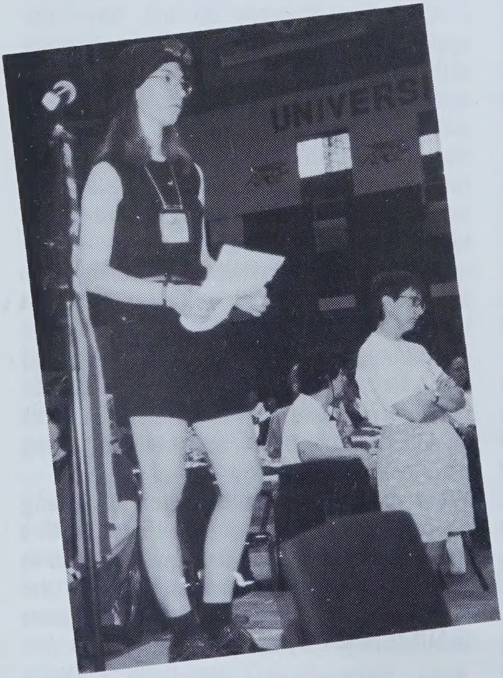
Each table had a basket containing a candle and coloured crayons. The table "cloths" were white newsprint on which each woman would create images of their days together. Each delegate was given a small piece of the coloured cloth which was braided into one long rope of hope. Artist in residence Regina Coupar from Nova Scotia unveiled a blank canvas which by the end of the conference would be filled with colourful words and symbols.

Norah McMurtry, Decade Coordinator splashed the first paint on the canvas.

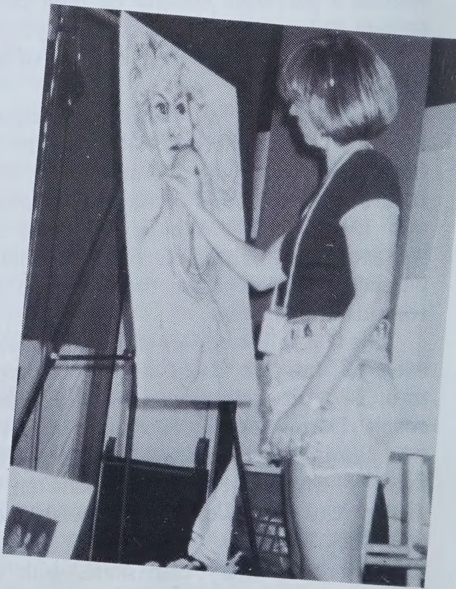
Music leaders included Emily Kierstead, a Diaconal Minister with the United Church, assisted by her daughters Jenny and Lisa, Nan Thompson of Cambridge, who also wrote some of the music, and Liturgist Keri Wehlander.

The opening welcome recognized people from the Canadian provinces, Japan, US, Tanzania, Korea, Grenada, India, Kenya and the Sudan.

Ruth Kao, involved in the Women's Development Program and the Rainbow Centre, from Taiwan, Dr. Deborah Tezlo, Superintendent of Jobat Christian Hospital,



– Young and old spoke of their hopes and dreams.



– Regina Coupar, Artist in Residence painted throughout the conference.

India, and Beth McIntosh, along with members of the Korean Christian Christian Church in Japan and the United Church of Christ in Japan, were among many known to the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Plenary sessions included voices of women actively involved in social and economic issues. Among these were the Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting, a growing network of older First Nations, Metis and other Canadian women in rural Saskatchewan. They spoke of strengthening bridges of understanding, trust, respect and friendship between the races and the generations.

The first "storytelling" plenary ended with a dramatic presentation of "Created for Life", a vision for youth ministry begun by the University Presbyterian Church, Toronto, in response to a fatal stabbing incident involving two teenagers from the Black community. Paulette Brown, minister of University Church, was one of the conference leaders.

A poignant and humorous drama, reflecting the pain and joy of men and women in marriage was presented. Commissioned for the conference, "The Last Dance" was written and performed by Robin and David Craig.

Among the many strong voices at the conference were those of Black and Lesbian women. As Linda Hollies, an ordained Elder and Associate Council Director for Outreach Ministry in the United Methodist West Michigan Annual Conference, told how black women and white sewed quilts, I began to understand the differences between the races, and the deep hurts that blacks have endured.

Referring to colonial days in the southern US, Linda described how the white women in the "big house" gathered at a convenient time, as a social occasion to sew together. Black women quilted their tears and pain into their sewing after working all day serving the whites. The history of their lives and community was embedded into their stitches. Unlike their white sisters, the blacks had no choice of the fabric, only leftover patches.

– Groups braided together their hopes for the future.

Later, in a gathering of Presbyterians, a mother told how her adopted black son was the first to call 911 when a shooting occurred in their neighbourhood. He was also the first to be accosted by the police and questioned. "Blacks aren't born angry. They learn to be that way by how they are treated," she said.

"Lesbians, too, feel the lack of power," one seminar participant said. "We must find our points of connection. We are all struggling in a male dominated world. We all start at different places. Blacks fight for human rights as well as women's rights.

The voices of Native women brought prayers for the healing process in which we are all engaged.

A moment of hope occurred when some of the 22 children in the day care marched in to the singing of Siyahamba. There were tears in many eyes as their voices sang "Common Thread", one of the conference songs written by Pat Humphries: "we will rise all together, we will rise."

Those who came forward from the groups with hopes and dreams, expressed their desire to dare to braid together such elements as wonder, hugs, kisses, courage, tears, energy for new visions, a few good men, flexibility and resistance to "isms".

An outstanding selection of workshops was a feast for participants: from quilting, creating personal icons, masque therapy, movement and massage, to struggling with the hard realities of women and Canada's justice system, and uprooted people.

At the Friday evening concert ticket holders were entertained by the music of Malaika, an Ottawa-based a capella group. Malaika was followed by The Wyrd Sisters, one of Canada's most inspiring musical talents.

A Public Declaration of "Daring Hope" was issued by the convention to "call upon the government, our faith communities and all concerned citizens of Canada to reclaim the vision of social justice that has been our legacy as a nation and our gift to civilization." A petition was circulated for signing in protest of the recent government action to challenge the decision to allow pay equity to female civil servants.

Some 30 Presbyterian women gathered on two different occasions to share their hopes for what will come out of this experience. Karen Hincke and Margaret Robertson.

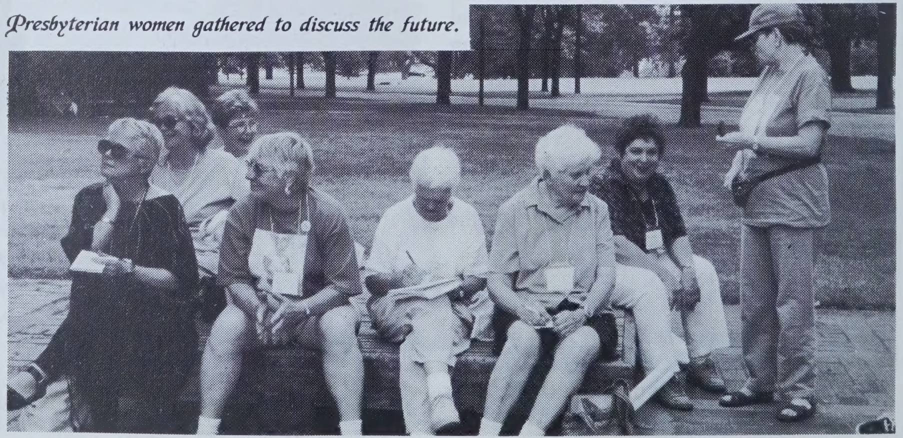
The Presbyterian women were anxious not to lose the momentum of the conference and to plan for the future. "We need to celebrate why Presbyterian women are so great," Bonita Mason, minister at Howick, Quebec, said.

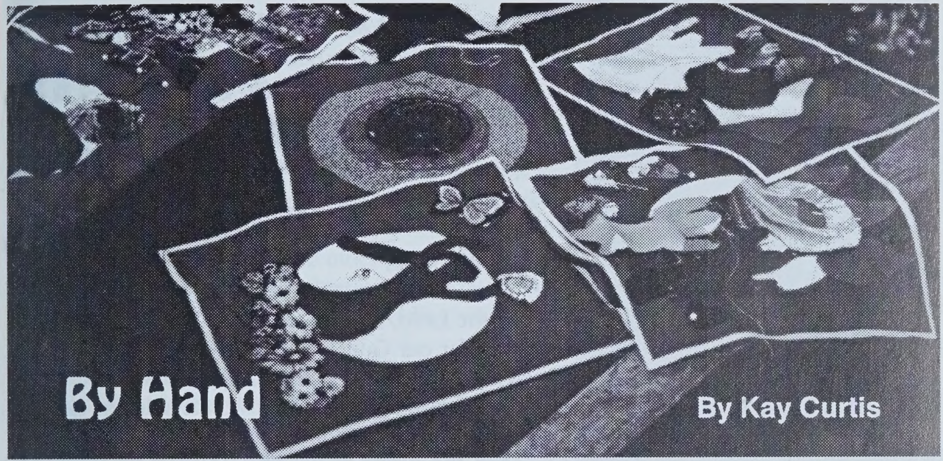
Sunday was "Festival Day". Johnston Green came alive with tents, balloons, clowns and workshops to enrich body, mind and soul. Friends and locals came to celebrate and enjoy. You could have your face painted, enjoy a massage, dance, drum and talk with various writers and artists. Shoppers visited the marketplace, filled with books, posters, T-shirts and various arts and crafts.

At 3 p.m. everyone came together to celebrate in worship the end of the Decade. Sophia's dancers, drummers and singers filled the open space with song and rhythm. Wisdom's women included Senator and Rt. Rev. Lois Wilson and Rev. Sook Ja Chung, Founder, Korean Women Church. Canadian delegates to the WCC Decade Festival in Harare were commissioned.

Daring Hope was for me an affirmation of women's triumph through adversity. I hope that everyone who participated, left as I did, with new hopes and dreams for all creation, and a commitment to help make those dreams come true.

– Presbyterian women gathered to discuss the future.





By Hand

By Kay Curtis

Through quilting I first came to realize that I pray "by hand." I search through a scrap collection of fabric, looking at the color and textures, to find a way to combine them into a pattern of meaning, beauty, and order. Many scraps have been saved back for years for just the right place to be used. I sew the pieces together into a top and then quilt the top to a backing with a warm, hidden internal batting in between.

Every thread and square inch of fabric passes through my hands. The steady, repetitive motion of the sewing and the ending and beginning again of the lines of stitching are meditative and comforting to me. Many times when I am unable to pray mentally, I find my prayer continuing on through my working hands. I "talk" to the quilt and give voice to myself. All of these things come together in a creative process, and a blanket of love and warmth emerges.

Even if a quilt is judged homely or poorly constructed, it can still give warmth and serve a useful purpose. Sometimes I have a purpose and destination in mind for a quilt. Many times I do not know for whom or what the quilt will be, but by the time I am finished, it will become apparent that this quilt is for a particular someone whom I have been praying for all the while I have been working. It could be for a friend, a child, a family member or even someone I have never met. To receive a handmade quilt is to receive a lavish gift because it is a gift of hands and heart, of thought, of attention, and of life in which the giver knows well the cost. To give someone your handmade quilt is to know the unspeakable joy of lavish giving.

Quilting has taught me much about prayer and the way in which I pray. Like an infant, I have found and seen my own hands and realized what a gift of God they are. My prayers come from the pieces I have discovered and lovingly gathered and treasured over time. I build from the beginnings of others and add my vision to theirs. Nothing is ever wasted. My hope is to join the pieces together into a beautiful form and return them to use in a new creation. I do this in a laborious and old-fashioned way; I do it by hand, for love works through my hands.

- From Alive Now (September/October, 1998), copyright date 1998 by The Upper room. Used by permission.

- *Quilt by Bernice Santor displayed at "Daring Hope". (See other related articles in this issue.)*
Photo by Margaret Robertson

A CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 1998

A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

by C. Joyce Hodgson

Call to Worship:
L: "A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
P: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
L: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
P: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (Is. 40:3-5 NRSV)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession (*On Frequent Journeys,* p. 38 adapted):
Today, Gracious God,
  we worship you as the one born among us:
  born, like many refugees, in makeshift conditions,
  surviving amidst bloodshed and terror,
  forced to leave your place of birth and go to a foreign land.
Born as one of us, we worship you, Refugee God.
  We thank you for the wisdom of strangers from the east
  who found and worshipped you in a stable.

We confess we are not always open to the wisdom strangers bring.
We do not seek to live amongst those whose lives are disrupted.
We give importance to status and grandeur..
Forgive us.

We thank you for your graciousness. You continually come to us speaking words of love and forgiveness. Thanks be to God. Amen. – Refugee and Migrant Service, Aotearoa, NZ

Hymn: All earth is waiting #109 OR Come, thou long expected Jesus #110 (Book of Praise 1997)/#114 (Book of Praise 1972)

The Promise: A child and a home (a candle or lantern is lit)

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2,6 NRSV and Isaiah 60:19-22 NRSV

A Poem: The Way Home (*On Frequent Journeys*, p. 94)

Our "Home" is the realm of God.
It is where love and justice prevail,
  and we are called by God
  to make wherever we are
  as much like home as possible.
We dare not feel "at home" in a world like this;
  where one-third of the people live abundantly,
  and two-thirds live in scarcity —
Two ghettos: one rich, the other poor.
In such a world we are refugees
  dwelling on either side of a dividing wall
  afraid to cross the boundary.
Christ breaks down the dividing wall.
"Home" happens when the walls come down,
  and the ghettos are no more,
  and we are all brothers and sisters.
The beginning of the way home
  is the way of sharing!
Our footsteps down this aisle
  to share with others
  are the first short steps
    Richard Wilcox, Spain.

- Palestinians living in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. Photo: L. June Stevenson

– From *Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community* © 1995 Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, United Church Press, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115

Hymn: Tomorrow Christ is coming #131 OR The First Nowell #136 (B of P 1997)/#131 (B of P 1972)

The Reality: Jesus is born homeless (the candle or lantern is blown out)
Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 NRSV

A Reflection: A Christmas Message (*On Frequent Journeys*, p. 100 adapted)

Jesus was born away from home while his parents were on the move against their will, forced to go to Bethlehem for a census. The gospel of Matthew tells us that soon after his birth the family had to flee to Egypt to escape persecution.

Today, to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ is to do so in a world where millions of people are also compelled to be on the move: refugees driven from their towns and villages by war, children on the road without a home, asylum seekers rejected and deported from a country of refuge, migrants separated from their families. They all knock at our door. Will we open it for them?

In Jesus Christ, God came into our human world. But God came as a stranger, unacknowledged. There was no place for the one sent by God, and finally he was pushed out of the world and on to a cross as a criminal. This Christmas, God is still on the move with the millions of uprooted people who look for a safe place to be received...

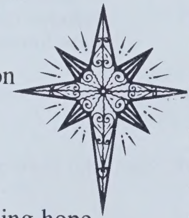
God is still on the move to us. We can close the door to God. We do so every time we deny an uprooted person safety and sanctuary. We can also open the door. In the refugee, the migrant, the internally displaced, Jesus comes to us again this Christmas. To allow him entry is to receive God — the stranger who wants to share our lives! – Dr. Konrad Raiser, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, 1997.

Offertory: We stand before this altar, Lord, like so many cosmic orphans. We are alienated from the life we feel we were destined to live, and estranged even from you, our Maker and Lord. It is as though we have been set down in a strange land where there is little to remind us of our homeland, and even less to call us back to our true vocation as your sons and daughters.

Let, then, this altar be a trysting place in a foreign land...a place in which cosmic orphans can come and feel at home. And may the gifts we place upon this altar lay claim to all the rest of our orphaned selves until that time when all your human family is reunited in this true homeland and orphaned no longer. Our prayer is in the name of the homeless Christ. Amen. Richard Wilcox, Spain

– From *Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community* © 1995 Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, United Church Press, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115 (p. 54) Used with permission.

A Poem: Christmas 1988 (*Gifts of Many Cultures*, p. 142)



Lord,
there is enchantment in the air
tonight
casting a mysterious spell
of expectancy on all creation
fulfilling the promise
of the birth of God
on earth
as a human child.
And as I watch with trembling hope
the wondrous pageant pass by
of poor shepherds
and powerful kings —
the radiant serenity of the night
is suddenly broken by a storm
of power drunk winds
spewing bullets of hatred
hurling stones of violence
on men and women
on frightened children
all fleeing
from the grips of oppressive
structures,from bondage of sorrow and broken
lives,
from explosive knowledge
which has not yet solved
the problems of hunger and poverty,
from crumbling values
which confuse the mind,
from death itself...
searching for the manger
where God's love and goodness
for all humanity
blossoms in the heart of a Babe
and lets us know anew
this Christmas morn
all people
as our brother,
as our sister.
Savithri Devanesen, India

The Mystery: A star is seen in the east (a candle or star-type light is lit)

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn: When heaven's bright with mystery #178 OR Hark the glad sound #118 (B of P 1997)/#110 (B of P 1972)

The Flight: Joseph takes child and mother and flees to Egypt (the light goes out)

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-21

A Reflection: Joseph's Story (*On Frequent Journeys*, p. 108)

The immediacy of the holy family's departure into exile is striking. The need for immediate flight from danger is a typical situation for the majority of refugees. As the Church in The Gambia, we are confronted daily with the pain of refugees who have fled from conflict.

Let me share with you the story of another Joseph, from Sierra Leone. He was working with his two small children in the family garden several hundred metres away when rebels hit the village. The children hid. Joseph ran to search for his wife and his other children. He found the house on fire, terror and chaos in the village, but no sign of his family. He came straight to The Gambia with the two children, but has since returned in search of his wife whom he has heard was alive but injured. As with the biblical Joseph, he has placed the lives of himself and his family in God's hands, seeing Him as his only hope. – From a homily by Rt. Rev. S. Tilewa Johnson, Bishop of Gambia

Prayers of Intercession from Europe (*Gifts of Many Cultures,* p. 34 adapted) (candles lit for each concern; lantern and star relit)

O God of all the peoples of this earth
we gather in your presence,
aware of the vastness of your world and of the intimacy of your concern.
Your love encompasses our largest dreams and our smallest fears.
In you we trust.
In love you sent your son to bring peace between the nations. Yet the world has such little faith in you that fear drives us to war, and so we remember the people and especially the children in...

Kosovo, Northern Ireland, the Middle East, East Africa, Sudan, Iraq...

(silence)

As a tiny child, your son was a refugee, living in flight, unsure of the future. Yet the world has such little compassion that we exclude strangers from our countries and homes, and so we remember:

all suffering from unjust race and immigrant laws;

refugees in Eastern Europe and the Balkans; Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Congo, in Canada and the USA...

(silence)

We learn that there is no greater gift than your love, that this is our ideal, our vision. Yet the world turns to ideologies that crumble and states that vanish, and so we remember: emerging states and nations looking for a voice; people in Afghanistan, Haiti, Somalia, Cuba, Ethiopia...

(silence)

In the midst of each of these concerns, we pray for the members of the Women's Missionary Society, struggling to bring an awareness of the world's needs before the people in our churches. Renew their commitment to be mission educators for women,

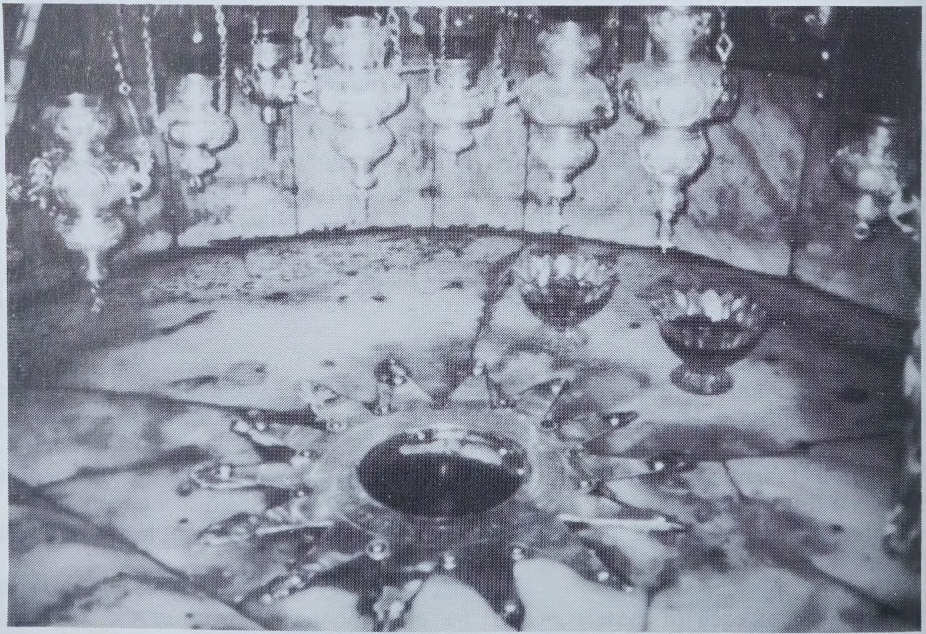
men and children.
Friend, lover, comforter, disturber, we bring these concerns before you in the certainty that you hear — for you hear our largest dreams and our smallest fears. May we never forget. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen. – World Student Christian Federation

Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew #121 OR Once in royal David's city #166 (B of P 1997)/#129 (B of P 1972)

Closing:
Voice One: We will welcome the stranger
Voice Two: We will welcome the child
Voice Three: As we welcome our Saviour
All: Jesus our Lord.

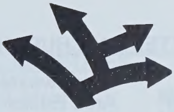
Blessing: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you, now and always.

Optional Choir Anthem: All Poor Men and Humble, *The Oxford Book of Carols*
Optional Resources: Map 'n' Facts: Refugees and Forced Migrants 1970-2000 (Friendship Press); Colour photocopies of the paintings of william kurelek from *A Northern Nativity: Christmas dreams of a prairie boy* (Tundra Books: Montreal, 1976), an award winning children's book found in any library.



- Holy site at Manger Square, Bethlehem where Jesus is believed to have been born.
Photo by L. June Stevenson

WHO & WHERE



Last year we asked people to tell us how they used this list and if it was helpful. The few responses we received indicated it is used as a prayer list, to send greeting cards to staff, and to give new people as an indication of the scope of our work. We are printing it once again in the centre of the magazine so it can be pulled out. Next year we will not print it unless people indicate it is widely used. We will however make it available from the office.

This year we have endeavoured to follow the Post Office guidelines for addresses as closely as possible.

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*Note: These contract positions will expire at the end of 1998. Permanent appointments will be made early in 1999.

**Note: The Associate Secretary position in Resource Production and Communication was vacant at the time of printing. It is anticipated that a new Associate Secretary will be appointed early in 1999.

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Nepean ON K2J 4L5

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Doo Je Kim
c/o Presbyterian Church of
Korea
135 YunjiDong Chongroku
Seoul 100470 Korea

John Yoo
c/o St. Andrews Church
30/32 Longdon Place
Colombo 7 Sri Lanka

Neil Hunter
Carleton Unversity Chaplaincy
Ottawa ON K1S 5B6

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Amberlea Presbyterian Church
(until Dec 31/98)
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Pickering ON L1V 1R8

Duncan Jeffrey
Malvern Presbyterian Church
1301 Neilson Rd
Scarborough ON M1B 3C2

Rodger Hunter
Community Chaplaincy
75 Simcoe St
Toronto ON M5J 1W9

Peter Ma
Celebration North Chinese
Presbyterian Church
c/o Chester Lee Blvd
Scarborough ON M1W 2K6

Tetteh Akunor
Ghanaian Presbyterian Church
470 Sentinel Rd Apt 405
North York ON M3J 1V6

Lincoln Rezende
Portuguese Evangelical
Presbyterian Church
100 Hepbourne St
Toronto ON M6H 1K5

Myung Chun (Grace) Kim
Korean Family Ministry
49 Bogart Ave
North York ON M2N 1K4

Cheryl Bradbee
Stonegate Community
Ecumenical Ministry
3 - 96 Indian Road

Toronto ON M6R 2V4

Elias Morales
Spanish/West Toronto Refugee Ministry
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Toronto ON M6L 1N8

Paulette Brown
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Downsview ON M3N 1M8

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25 Ruth Avenue
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Grant Johnston
North Bramalea Presbyterian Church
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Brampton ON L6S 5R8

Hugo Lau
Mississauga Chinese Presbyterian Church
3535 South Common Ct
Mississauga ON L5L 2B3

Ferne Reeve
Trafalgar Presbyterian Church
169 River Oaks Blvd E
Oakville ON L6H 5N5

J Wesley Denyer
Unionville Presbyterian Church
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600 Village Parkway
Unionville ON L3R 6C2

Kirk MacLeod
Allyson MacLeod
Keswick Presbyterian Church
Box 73
Keswick ON L4P 3E1

Janet Wardlaw
University of Guelph Chaplaincy
Level 3 University Centre
Guelph ON N1G 2W1

Wallace Little
Wasaga Community Presbyterian Church
c/o 200 Maple St
Collingwood ON L9Y 2R2

Richard Hein
Knox Presbyterian Church
Box 1394
Cochrane ON P0L 1C0

Stan Self (Interim)
Hillside & Knox Presbyterian Churches
73 Larch St
Sudbury ON P3E 1B8

Mark Richardson
Kitchener East Presbyterian Church
10 Zellar Dr
Kitchener ON N2A 4A8

SYNOD OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

George Tattrie
Brock University Chaplaincy
St Catharines ON L2S 3A1

Anne Gedke
University of Western Ontario Chaplaincy
Campus Ministry Centre #255
London ON N5A 5B8

Heritage Green Presbyterian Church
360 Isaac Brock Dr
Stoney Creek ON L8V 2R2

Clive Simpson
St Paul's Presbyterian Church
2600 Headon Forest Dr
Burlington ON L7M 4G2

Ecumenical Chaplaincy
McMaster University
Wentworth House 108
Hamilton ON L8S 4K1

Terry Hastings
DaySpring Presbyterian Church
27 Midale Rd
London ON N5X 2H1

SYNOD OF MANITOBA/NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Charles Cook
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Box 1102
Thompson MB R8N 1N9

Bruce Miles
Knox Presbyterian Church
Box 1425
Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0

- Play school at the Schwarz's, Kathmundu, Nepal.

- Anita Kmecz (left) with bible study group, Sarospatak, Hungary. Anita is now home in Canada.

Warren Whittaker
Flora House
739 Flora Ave
Winnipeg MB R2W 2S8

Kelly Lee Shapiro
Flora House
739 Flora Ave
Winnipeg MB R2W 2S8

Denise Fenez
Anishinabe Fellowship Centre
287 Laura St
Winnipeg MB R3A 1C4

Errol Boulanger
Anishinabe Fellowship Centre
287 Laura St
Winnipeg MB R3A 1C4

Henry Hildebrandt
Anamiewigummig
PO Box 447
Kenora ON P9N 3X4

SYNOD OF SASKATCHEWAN

Stewart Folster
Saskatoon Native Circle
530 Sherry Pl
Saskatoon SK S7M 5S3

Mary Fontaine
Mistawasis Presbyterian
Church
Box 73
Leask SK S0J 1M0

Thomas Brownlee
Circle West Presbyterian
Church
143 Wedge Rd
Saskatoon SK S7L 6P9

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE NORTHWEST

Knox Presbyterian Church
Blueberry Mountain
Presbyterian Church
Box 37
Wanham AB T0H 3P0

D Allan Young
North Peace Territorial Ministry
Box 170
Dixonville AB T0H 1E0

John C Rhoad
Callingwood Road
Presbyterian Church
Stony Plain Parkland First
Presbyterian Church
6015 - 184 St
Edmonton AB T6M 1T8

Irwin Cunningham
Faith Presbyterian Church
255 Cornwall Dr
Fort McMurray AB T9K 1G7

Teuk Yoon Whang
Jasper Presbyterian Church
PO Box 2589
Jasper AB T0E 1E0

Robert Cruickshank
Trinity Presbyterian Church
400 Midpark Blvd SE
Calgary AB T2X 2K4

Dianne Ollerenshaw
Valleyview Presbyterian
Church
Box 15 Site 3 SS #3
Calgary AB T3C 3N9

Lara Bowditch
Foothills Shared Ministry
Box 2200
Chetwynd BC V0C 1J0

Leslie Wheeler-Dame
Faro Shared Ministry
Box 583
Faro YT Y0B 1K0

Shannon Mang
United/Presbyterian Campus
Ministry
MacEwan Hall Rm 318
University of Calgary
2500 University Dr NW
Calgary AB T2N 1N4

Paulin Grant
Presbyterian Chaplaincy
University of Alberta
171 - HUB International
Edmonton AB T6G 2C5

SYNOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Heather Balsdon
Lakeside Presbyterian Church
5505 Butler St
Summerland BC V0H 1Z0

David Webber
Cariboo Presbyterian Church
Comp 17 RR #1 Dunsmuir Rd
Lac La Hache BC V0K 1T0

John Wyminga
Shannon Bell-Wyminga
Cariboo Presbyterian Church
1365 - 11th Ave N
Williams Lake BC V2G 2N1

Bruce Gourlay
First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 123
Prince Rupert BC V8J 3P4

Richard Moffatt
St David's Presbyterian

Church
271 Glenmore Rd
Kelowna BC V1V 1V6

Yong-Hwa Bak
Kelowna Korean Presbyterian Church
271 Glenmore Rd
Kelowna BC V1V 1V6

Ina Golaiy
Kitimat Presbyterian Church
PO Box 392
Kitimat BC V8C 2G8

Japanese Ministry
4397 W 12th St
Vancouver BC V6R 2P9

Grace Presbyterian Church
15964 - 88th Ave
Surrey BC V4N 1H5

Elizabeth Forrester
Trinity Presbyterian Church
(until Dec 31/98)
Box 495
Campbell River BC V9W 5C1

Murray Garvin (until Dec 31/98)
Slocan Park Slocan Valley & Castlegar
Presbyterian Churches
Box 93
Slocan Park BC V0G 2E0

Guy Sinclair
Ministry of Outreach and Discipleship
Calvin Presbyterian Church
2597 Bourquin Cres E
Abbotsford BC V2S 1Y6

Sung Deuk Hong
Surrey Korean Presbyterian Church
15714 – 84th Ave
Surrey BC V3S 2N6

Young Taik Cho
Galilee Korean Presbyterian Church
3819 W 31st Ave
Vancouver BC V6S 1Y2

Ruth M McCowan
West Shore Presbyterian Church
1099 Nicholson St
Victoria BC V8X 3L3

Harold McNabb
West Shore Presbyterian Church
558 Cedarcrest Dr
Victoria BC V9C 1M3

D'Arcy Lade
Comox Valley Presbyterian Church
463 - 5th St
Courtenay BC V9N 1J7

- Daniel Schwarz, Nepal, having a bath. Daniel, son of Ling and Richard Schwarz now has a baby sister, Christine, born September 24, 1998 at 9 lb 2oz.

OVERSEAS STAFF BIRTHDAYS

December
1 - Heather Jones, Malawi
15 - Rick Allen, Kenya
24 - Agwu David Onuoha, Nigeria
31 - Jack McIntosh, Japan
31 - Georgine Caldwell, Taiwan

January
13 - Caleb Lessard-Clouston, Japan
16 - Beth McIntosh, Japan

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Child of the King

For precious moments set apart,
My thoughts are held captive.
I hear the whisper of snowflakes,
Watch as they dance through smatterings of sunlight.
With soft caress, they brush the frozen ground
And then lie silent,
Content in winter's grandeur.

Muted voices break the stillness,
Laughter wakes my sleeping spirit.
Warmed by those around me,
I am sheltered,
Protected,
Safe within Your keeping.

A loving touch reminds me
of Your goodness.
Pulling me close,
Accepting and affirming,
Renewing my identity in You.

The miracle of birth draws me back
to a stable;
The cries of an infant
echo freedom, forgiveness;
Stillness returns, serene and calm
Captured by Your peace,
I too, lie silent.

Maureen Hafso

Nigeria. Sierra Leone. Sudan. China. Malawi. Guatemala. Rwanda. Iraq. India. The Dominican Republic. North Korea. Papua New Guinea. Cuba. Nicaragua. Canada.

What do all of these places have in common? Over the past two years they have faced crises that have left people vulnerable and in need. In all of these places, you have been there—through drought, flood, fire, war or conflict, ice storm, tidal wave, or hurricane— with food, medicine and supplies, helping to rebuild.

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For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

Mathew 25:35
(NRSV)

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Here are three children's books which each tell the familiar story of that first Christmas from a very unique perspective:
The Very First Christmas by Paul L. Maier is a "real people and real things" bedtime story told by a mom to her son Christopher who has always been a little disappointed that fairy tales never really happened. As the story about the birth of Jesus unfolds, Christopher asks many questions, "Who, why, where?". He absorbs his mother's answers about life in bible times and compares them to things he already knows and his heart is filled with knowing this most important story of all is true.

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The Cat Who Knew the Meaning of Christmas by Marion Chapman Gremmels opens with a midnight conversation on Christmas Eve between Cricket the cat and her boy Andrew; " Shall I sing you the story, the story I sing to my kittens, the story my mother sang to me? … It all began in Bethlehem, long ago, in a stable that belonged to the Cat". For anyone who loves cats or children, this magical tale will charm and delight. $10.95 softcover, illustrated by David LaFleur

Hey, Mr. Angel! By Christine Harder Tangvald and illustrated by Jeff Carnehl this rhyming, rollicking story is set in the most traditional of Christmas church activities each year; The Sunday School Pagent! Suited for ages 4-7, great for Church School placemen. $11.25 hardcover

Adults wishing to do something a little different this Advent and Christmas season will find a wealth of ideas in:
Simplify & Celebrate: Embracing the Soul of Christmas. Rather than drag yourself all over town looking for the perfect gift and a parking spot, rediscover here the values of gift-giving and ideas for alternatives to a commercial Christmas. Ideas for new just and responsible traditions are paired with activities and reflections based on the biblical story to help everyone reclaim the joy and peace of the Christmas season. $21.25 softcover

Christmas Dawn

Be still - be quiet
Listen for the joy,
Listen for the peace.
Listen for the love that babe
brought down to earth this day.

It's there - in your heart
Just listen.

Peggy White

Dorothy Neal of Kensington Boulevard [Sarnia, Ontario] learned early in life that the best Christmas is one that comes from the heart.

One of her most memorable Christmas Eve's happened during the Depression in 1938 when she was in her second year of training at Victoria Hospital in London as a registered nurse. She was helping to care for about 50 men in her ward. Although some of these men were legitimately ill, others were there because they had nowhere else to go for Christmas. Back then, there were few shelters or facilities for the homeless or poor, says Mrs. Neal.

A Christmas straight from the heart

It was Mrs. Neal's first Christmas Eve away from her family, and the patients were aware of this. She temporarily left the ward and when she returned, she was greeted with a Christmas surprise.

The patients, with the help of others on staff, had put together a small Christmas tree, with pine branches and little decorations. For a gift, they all chipped in for a makeup compact and also composed a poem for Mrs. Neal. It's a poem that Mrs. Neal still knows by heart:

You've been a friend to everyone
In countless kindly ways
That warm and friendly smile of yours
has brightened many days
And so may all the kindness
And care that you have shown
Return to make your Christmas
The happiest you've ever known.

"These men had nothing, but they had a lot of love in their hearts," says Mrs. Neal. "It meant an awful lot to me." It showed her that expensive gifts and a beautiful tree aren't necessary elements for a good Christmas.

Over 50 years later, Mrs. Neal still has the compact they gave her.

-Reprinted with permission from the Sarnia Observer.

The Gift of Smiles

by Gladys Nolan

I have a saying up on my bulletin board: "If you see someone without a smile, give him or her one of yours."

Walking through our shopping mall one day, an elderly woman pushing a specially designed cart and seat, smiled at me. I spoke to her. "Thank you for your lovely warm smile."

"Thank you for yours", she replied. "It doesn't take any effort does it?" She put out her hand to shake mine. We chatted as old friends. She told me she was 91 years of age. As I am close to that wonderful age, I could appreciate the effort she had made to go shopping.

As we said goodbye, and God bless you, her special smile made her seem very young. We may never meet again, but I shall never forget her beautiful warm smiling face.

Forward in Faith

In Psalm 68:11 NIV we read:
May all the peoples praise you, O God, may all the peoples praise you.

How many of you praise God when it comes to the stewardship of your money? Too often we want to hold onto our money, yet money is to be used for mission. Sometimes our priorities are wrong and the Lord's work gets what is left over.

Take the work of the WMS. How do you give to the work of the Society? Have you given the same amount monthly for many years? Have you given a token amount monthly, then at the end of the year give more if you have it? Or, do you decide yearly what your contributions will be and then give regularly? Now is the time to think about next year.

I give praise to God that the Council Executive have been able to help many people from the interest of our invested endowments. 1997 was a good year for our investments. Money has gone for campership; to young people and advisors to Triennium; to women attending the Daring Hope Conference; to ministerial students; for a pilot Vacation Bible School program; for outreach of youth programs; for health care of a child in Nigeria; for students on foreign mission courses; for education of university students and for development of the Mission Study.

As the year ends, let us be praising God for what we have, and may our hearts be ready to serve Him. Let us remember the staff and be thankful for the work they do on behalf of the Society.

Irene Nesbitt,
Treasurer

"*I*"-Witness

A small incident occurred just before Christmas. Workmen had been coming and going in our seven-story building since last August replacing the whole plumbing system. After several weeks the workmen finally reached the second floor where I live.

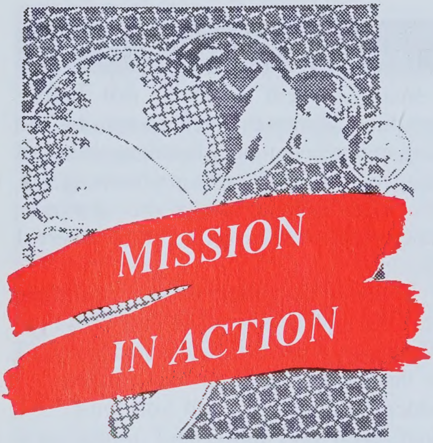
A young man came into my apartment to cut out a piece of wall so they could get at the pipes. After awhile, he said to me, "I see that you have been to Jerusalem." I nodded. "What impressed you most?" he asked. So I told him about sitting on a bench in the Garden of Gethsemane imagining Jesus praying in such agony, and feeling my own agony at the recent loss of my husband easing as I remembered the agony of our Lord.

I do not easily confide such intimate feelings to others, and I stopped talking. He looked at me, and said, very softly. "I am a new Christian. It's only a few weeks since I found Jesus." I said, "Surely you mean a 'new-born Christian'." "No," he said. "I have never been a Christian, so how can I be a new-born Christian? I am a new Christian. I have acknowledged that Jesus is my Lord and Saviour and I will try to conduct my life so that He would be proud of me."

Our conversation ended at that point. But I have seen him around the building several times since, and we smile at each other in a conspiratorial manner. Does it matter what he calls himself? He has surely found his Lord and Saviour.

The work is now done, and the workmen, including my friend, have left. I pray that he will continue to be the kind of Christian that would make our Lord proud of him.

Kay Berry,
Richmond, BC



***Mission in Action* replaces "Dear Friends". Addresses of personnel may be found in the Nov/Dec issue or obtained from the Life & Mission Agency.**

Linda and Bob King
India

March 1998-We are both well and busy respective projects: Linda teaching midwifery and obs again and I'm busy on the computer and overseeing a number of construction projects. The second year ANM student nurses speak little or no English, but perseverance pays off. Both Linda and the students have worked out a satisfactory means of communication; a little Hindi/Bhil/English. Most of these kids are tribals and their exposure to foreigners has been limited to what they have experienced at the nursing school here.

My projects are renovating, updating the pharmacy, rebuilding a six-foot brick wall about 1500 ft long around a school, and repairing a sidewalk footpath. The pharmacy is well underway. Construction here is different from my project last year in Indore at the PG school. Here we first must travel six hours to Indore to buy materials. This is a small rural community with very few necessities or amenities.

Sermon preparations are part of the most satisfying portion of our work here. We both really enjoy sharing the Word of God. We alternate week about and support each other on those days. I preach, Linda does the scripture reading and vice versa, and of course the translator covers for both of us.

Two weeks ago we went to Barwani then off to Kukshi to speak at 11:30. This was an experience of a lifetime. We drove into this small village and stopped at a little house on the main street, and were invited in by an old timer, named Nehemiah. He was a former evangelist in this area of India. In Nehemiah's home we went to the Upper Room and prayed, rejoiced and shared the Gospel message. The people understood my message completely, and that doesn't happen often with an interpreter, no matter how hard they try.

From about March 10-20 we were confined to the hospital compound while the Hindus and the tribals celebrated holi, another Hindu festival. We have been adopted by a dog named Jimmy, a great watch/guard dog. We also have our very own large monkey that seems to like a particular tree next to the house and also parking on our rooftop much to the amazement and joy of the children in our area. Disaster struck yesterday - our western toilet malfunctioned and now we travel to another building when nature calls.

May the good Lord bless each one of you, watch over you and keep you safe.

Love from India

Linda and Bob

Caroling

Anita Kmecz
Hungary

February 1998-Soon after Christmas our CRWM team in Eastern Europe had a retreat in Marosvasarhely, Romania. I had a great time getting to know everyone better. It was so amazing to see how God called each one of us to our respective places, and how well our abilities and characters fit our needs and environment. God gave each of us the desire and calling in our heart, just when the need arose. "He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). It is not just that God will give us things, but that He gives us the desires, so that His work may be accomplished. It is amazing how He works!

God has also been working in our Bible Studies. Sarah and Lois had a decrease in attendance and after continual prayer attendance increased. It was a direct answer to prayer and amazing to see. Marie's and my Bible study is going well, but it has experienced a slight decrease in numbers also. Some students have had a lot of work, but I think we also need to be on the alert. God is greater than all things and all things are possible with Him.

The study, which I just began, is on *Growing in Christ*. Topics include quiet time, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship with others. I am so committed to sharing with the students ways in which they can keep their relationship with God alive and growing. So often they think that hearing about God from a pastor or religion teacher is enough. What will happen when they leave this school and safe environment? Join me in praying that the Lord will continue to draw them unto Himself and that they will long to seek to be fed.

Teaching is going well, and I continue to really enjoy my classes. The students are well-behaved and a joy to teach. I continue to have the "Problem of the Week" and the students all agree that they want it to continue. In the 10E and 10F classes we recently finished a unit on functions.

One day I came into class with a tape recorder and they were just staring at it, wondering what we were going to do with a tape recorder in math class. We did Function Aerobics! Each function that we looked at has a basic shape that we can show with our arms. Another day I took the classes to the computer room. I have a program for reviewing functions through practice, questions and games. That was a big hit too. So there has definitely been some excitement in our classes.

At the end of the last school year, I lost one of my class notes. It was very important to me because half the course is geometry, and all the theorems and proofs that I had carefully worked out were in there. One day Lois found it. I was so happy. This was a 'big miracle' for me. Of course the timing was perfect too. I was to begin the geometry unit in a week and a half. Furthermore, I was just about to begin leading the Bible studies. This way I could spend more time preparing for those. Praise God for the many ways that He provides!

One weekend the teachers gave a talent show for the students. We North American teachers sang a spiritual, "Shut De Door", and dressed up as people from the Caribbean Islands-with dark foundation and the works! It was great fun and the students really got a kick out of it. This past weekend was a "Student Weekend" filled with a variety of activities.

I really enjoy building friendships in the Sarospatak community also. Orsi continues to visit Lois and me, and Sarolta and I also continue to meet. Sarolta's family invited me over for Sunday lunch to celebrate Zsuzsa's name day (her mother's and sister's name). I love to be with people in family situations; it is a great time to get to know each other better. One Saturday Panni, a Hungarian colleague who teaches English, and I went to Miskolc (a nearby city) for the day-it was a time to get away from the normal routine and enjoy the beautiful weather we have been having. At the end of the day Panni asked what the teacher's Bible studies are like. I told her that I don't go because I tutor during that time. We got to talking about our faith and she shared some of her experiences with me. I invited Panni to our English 'church services'-via cassette. She said that she would come. God just totally opened that door for discussion. It is amazing. Last Sunday Panni came. She liked it and said that she would come again. For many young people (all around the world really), the traditional services don't appeal to them very much. Thankfully, God reaches out to us in more than one way.

Csilla is our other Hungarian friend about whom I have told you. It is amazing to see God working in her life also. Since returning home, Csilla has become involved with New Hope Ministry. This ministry works with children and distributes Sunday school materials to churches. It has offices in Romania, Czech, Slovakia, the Ukraine and Moldova. Csilla will begin the Hungarian branch of that ministry-in another city, Debrecen. God has really prepared Csilla for this ministry:

God has also been working in Marie's life. Marie met a young pastor, Kund, at the end of last summer. Kund was called to a Hungarian congregation in Australia and they have maintained their correspondence during the year. God has called Marie to join Kund in Australia in the summer.

I also will be leaving this mission field at the end of this school year. God has shown me that it is time for me to return home to my family. The topic came up during one of my classes and the students were quite surprised. They asked why I was leaving and said they hoped I would write. The next day, a group of students from another class was waiting outside the classroom door. They asked whether the news was really true, why I was leaving and said that they really liked me and wished I wouldn't go. One of the girls was almost angry and said that she understood mathematics better in English than Hungarian. All of this touched me so much. Their response was such an encouragement and confirmation. I will truly miss Sarospatak and all the friends I have made. But I also know that I will keep in touch with many of them. We will continue to share our lives I look forward to it with happiness.

In His service,
Anita Kmecz

- Carolling in the Old Folk's Home in Sarospatak.

Clara Henderson
Malawi

Christmas 1997-Every Christmas when I sing the carol "See amid the winter's snow", I am reminded of the power of love to transform unpleasant episodes into cherished memories. This particular carol recalls a childhood experience which initially provoked anger, antagonism, and tears but which, over time, was transformed into a memory that conjures up love, longing, and laughter.

When we were young children, my father liked to record our singing and story telling on his reel-to-reel tape recorder. One Christmas when I was four and my brother Sandy was nine, our father set up the tape recorder in the living room and left us alone to sing some of the Christmas carols we had memorized. Everything was going smoothly until we came to the chorus of "See amid the winter's snow:"

Hail, O ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Those familiar with this carol will recall that the first two lines of the chorus are sung to the same tune with the word "Hail" beginning on a high note and each successive word gradually moving down the scale. I sang "Hail" at the beginning of each line with great enthusiasm but would forget that there were only two lines sung this way and would begin the third line with the same resounding, high pitched "Hail." Upon recognizing my error I discreetly meandered down the scale until I caught up with Sandy so that I could join in singing the rest of the chorus as if no mistake had been made. Unfortunately, each time we sang the chorus I made the same blunder until my exasperated brother attempted to correct me with a strong jab in the ribs.

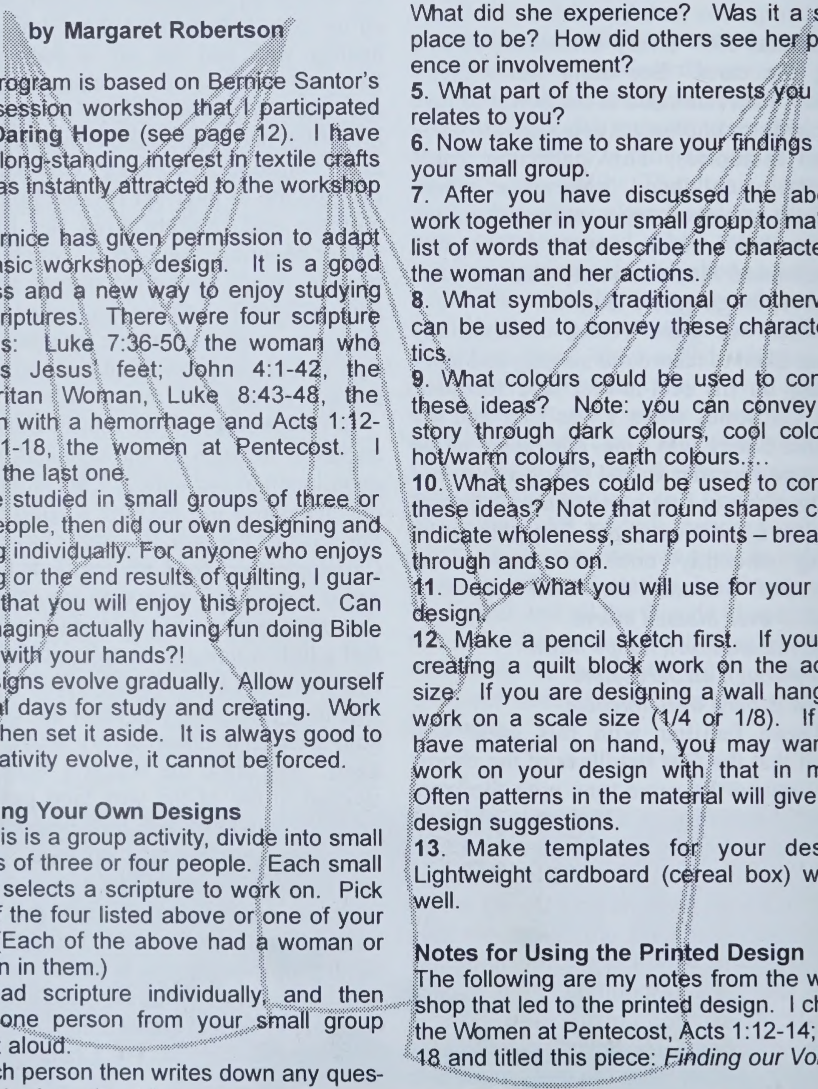
Stung by his reprimand and embarrassed that my ineptitude had been recorded on tape, I abandoned the "Hail" for a healthy wail and ran off to seek solace from my mother in the kitchen. Infuriated that Sandy would not only go on singing as if nothing had happened but that he would also continue recording without me, inspired me to interrupt my sobbing for a moment and retaliate from the kitchen with a booming "Shut up!!!" Much to my chagrin, Sandy continued singing sweetly and confidently into the microphone without pause such that anyone listening to the tape would not know what had caused my sudden crying and angry outburst.

It became one of our family Christmas traditions to listen to that tape and have a good laugh at our antics to the extent that our behaviour has become a family joke. For most of the past 16 years I have spent Christmas away from my family in Canada and it is this carol more than any other that can bring tears to my eyes and make me feel a little homesick. In spite of the negative emotions I associated with it when I was four years old, this carol has come to hold a special place in my heart as an adult. "See amid the winter's snow" is a symbol to me of the way God can turn hostility into love and transform conflict and strife into joy and laughter. It also serves as a reminder that God's healing presence came to us through the Christ child bringing peace on earth and goodwill to all people-beginning with our own families and local communities, and extending out into the global community.

Clara

PROGRAM:

Theology and Quilting: Quilts That Tell a Story



by Margaret Robertson

This program is based on Bernice Santor's three-session workshop that I participated in at **Daring Hope** (see page 12). I have had a long-standing interest in textile crafts so I was instantly attracted to the workshop title.

Bernice has given permission to adapt her basic workshop design. It is a good process and a new way to enjoy studying the scriptures. There were four scripture choices: Luke 7:36-50, the woman who anoints Jesus' feet; John 4:1-42, the Samaritan Woman, Luke 8:43-48, the woman with a hemorrhage and Acts 1:12-12; 2:1-18, the women at Pentecost. I chose the last one.

We studied in small groups of three or four people, then did our own designing and sewing individually. For anyone who enjoys sewing or the end results of quilting, I guarantee that you will enjoy this project. Can you imagine actually having fun doing Bible Study with your hands?!

Designs evolve gradually. Allow yourself several days for study and creating. Work on it, then set it aside. It is always good to let creativity evolve, it cannot be forced.

Creating Your Own Designs

If this is a group activity, divide into small groups of three or four people. Each small group selects a scripture to work on. Pick one of the four listed above or one of your own. (Each of the above had a woman or women in them.)

1. Read scripture individually, and then have one person from your small group read it aloud.

2. Each person then writes down any questions she has about the passage.

3. Look in Bible commentaries for background information - look in your church library or ask your minister about sources.

4. Create a mental picture of the woman and what important action she took. Imagine what it was like for her. Put yourself in her shoes. Here are some questions to think about. How did she feel and/or react? What did she experience? Was it a safe place to be? How did others see her presence or involvement?

5. What part of the story interests you and relates to you?

6. Now take time to share your findings with your small group.

7. After you have discussed the above, work together in your small group to make a list of words that describe the character of the woman and her actions.

8. What symbols, traditional or otherwise can be used to convey these characteristics.

9. What colours could be used to convey these ideas? Note: you can convey the story through dark colours, cool colours, hot/warm colours, earth colours....

10. What shapes could be used to convey these ideas? Note that round shapes could indicate wholeness, sharp points – breaking through and so on.

11. Decide what you will use for your own design.

12. Make a pencil sketch first. If you are creating a quilt block work on the actual size. If you are designing a wall hanging, work on a scale size (1/4 or 1/8). If you have material on hand, you may want to work on your design with that in mind. Often patterns in the material will give you design suggestions.

13. Make templates for your design. Lightweight cardboard (cereal box) works well.

Notes for Using the Printed Design

The following are my notes from the workshop that led to the printed design. I chose the Women at Pentecost, Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-18 and titled this piece: *Finding our Voices*

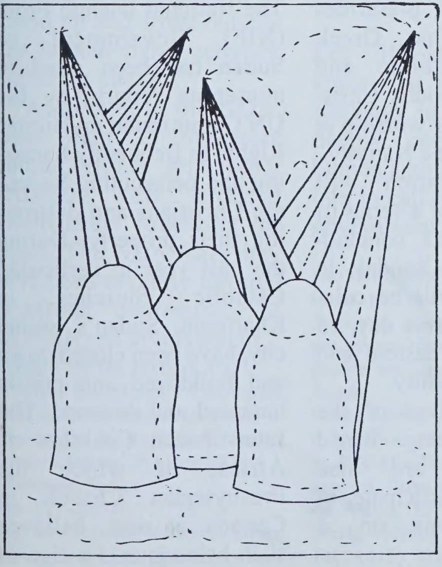
List of words: In our small group we decided that the women at Pentecost were daring, strong, energetic, committed, curious, risk takers, boisterous, excited, enthusiastic, validated, and filled with power of the Spirit.

Symbols: The traditional symbols of Pentecost are wind and fire. New symbols could be: wind instruments, dancing/ribbons, tornado cone, lightening, and/or fireworks.

Colours: The word and symbols that we talked about suggest a lot of joy, which indicates the colours orange, red, yellow, pink, and violet. You could also use vibrating colours, the opposite colours on the colour wheel (orange/blue, yellow/purple or red/green). Colours can also represent darkness, coolness, heat, earth etc.)

Shapes: I chose triangles with sharp points to suggest fireworks and the energy created at Pentecost. After all, the story of Pentecost is the beginning of the Christian church. Thomas Long says that Pentecost is when the church found its voice.

Directions for using the printed design: Copy or enlarge the design in the size that you wish to make. There are two basic shapes, the body figure and the triangle. Cut out one of each and add 1/4" all around for seam allowance. The triangle has a 30 degree angle at the point. You may wish to use one, two or four colours for each triangle. I have shown four sections to each triangle. (Use only one if you are making a quilt block. I used four on a large hanging, but it is difficult to get the point looking neat.)



Choosing colours: I chose yellow for the background, a blue print for each of the body figures, and a mixture of red, mauve, pink and a print that has each of those colours for the triangles.

Cut out your shapes, sew the triangle strips together then prepare to applique. Lay the pieces on the background fabric and play around with the design until you are pleased with the composition. Turn the edges under 1/4", then applique, using an invisible stitch.

For a wall hanging, choose quilt batting for inside and a background material to match or contrast with the top piece. You may turn the edge over or sew the whole piece, like a pillow and turn right side out, stitching the last opening by hand.

Quilt with fine stitches along the edge of your designs or just inside the design. I quilted extra lines along the triangles to emphasize the energy and excitement of Pentecost. In this story, I imagined that the energy was like fireworks so quilted lots of lines, extending from the triangles and from in between the triangles. At the base of the figures, I quilted lines that looked like the people were standing in the ground (horizontal and curved on each end).

Be creative in your work. Feel free to use this basic design. It is meant to be an idea starter. Better still, start with a different scripture and create your own. In our workshop there were no two alike. Most participants were non-quilters and were amazed at the results. The process worked.

Bernice Santor, a theologian and quilter, who lives at Grand Bend, Ontario gave permission for use of her workshop material.

NEWS

STAFF INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT

International Ministries staff Mark Gordon was involved in a serious vehicle accident on July 29. Mark was appointed in February to serve with the Projects Department of the Presbyterian Church in Mozambique. He was knocked from a motorcycle hitting his head and seriously injuring his right leg.

Initially treated at a private clinic in Maputo he was later medically evacuated to a hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa. There he underwent three operations to have an exterior pin entered into his lower leg.

Mark returned to Canada in August for further surgery and physiotherapy. He plans to return as soon as doctors permit him to travel.

DECEMBER '99 SERVICE PLANNED IN BETHLEHEM

Geneva, 18 June (ENI)-The leaders of Jerusalem's main churches are to hold an unprecedented ecumenical celebration in Bethlehem on 4 December 1999 to celebrate the new millennium.

After an ecumenical service in Manger Square, Bethlehem, the church leaders - including Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant, will together enter the Church of the Nativity, which marks the spot where Jesus is said to have been born. Bishop Munib Younan, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan, whose church includes Israel, Palestine and Jerusalem, told ENI that this would be the first time the church leaders had jointly entered the Bethlehem church.

The plans mark a significant ecumenical advance because the access and use given to Christians of holy sites in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and on the Mount of Olives is governed by the "status quo" legislation dating back to 1852. The legislation, first codified by the Ottoman Turks, prescribes the spaces that Greek Orthodox, Catholic and Armenian Orthodox Christians can use for worship in the Church of the Nativity.

The celebration will mark the start of a series of commemorations concluding on Easter Sunday in 2001, which will be celebrated on the same day, 15 April, by both eastern and western Christianity.

Representatives of the main Christian World Communions are also expected to participate in the celebrations on 4 December.

- Priests at Church of the Nativity, Manger Square, Bethlehem.
Photo by L. June Stevenson

Later Bishop Younan told ENI that he hoped that the celebrations in Jerusalem in 2000 would have "a strong ecumenical dimension because Christians in the Middle East, in Jerusalem and in Palestine are a minority".- Stephen Brown

SUDANESE CATHOLIC PRIESTS DETAINED

The National Islamic Front (NIF) Government of Sudan has been cited in numerous reports by the UN Commission on Human Rights as frequently harassing and persecuting Sudanese Christians and destroying their property. During the past year in particular, Catholic churches in Khartoum, Sudan's capital city, have been closed down and bulldozed and priests harassed and detained. The Inter-Church Coalition on Africa, of which the Presbyterian Church in Canada is part, believes such behaviour is a sign of the NIF regime's inherent lack of respect for and hostility toward religious groups (including Muslims who reject the NIF's version of Islam).

On 6 August 1998, Auxiliary (Catholic) Bishop of the Archdiocese of Khartoum, Daniel Adwok, informed partner churches that two priests, Fr. Lino Sebit and Fr. Hilary Boma, were arrested by security police and taken to jail. Both are believed to have been charged in conjunction with a string of explosions that rocked Khartoum in June. The (NDA),National Democratic Alliance a coalition of Sudanese opposition groups and political parties, believes that the explosions were the work of the NIF itself and were used as a pretext to round up and arrest outspoken human rights activists, including clergy.

According to the NDA, more than 25 Sudanese human rights and other activists were arrested immediately following the blasts. The NDA fears they have been severely tortured to extract "confessions" of their alleged involvement.

Please write letters to:

1. His Excellency Lieutenant General Omar Hassan al-Bashir
President of the Republic of Sudan
People's Palace, PO Box 281
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: 011-249-11-71-724

Call on President Bashir to either release Frs. Lino and Hilary and the other detainees immediately, or:

- make the names of all detainees and the charges against them public;
- give the detainees access to adequate legal defense and independent medical care;
- make sure the detainees receive a free, fair and open trial;
- make sure the detainees are treated humanely in detention and are allowed visitors.

Send a copy of your letter to:
Mr. Abdel Basset Sabdrat
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Ministry of Justice
Khartoum, Sudan
Fax: 011-249-11-74-063

The Ambassador
Embassy of the Republic of Sudan
85 Range Road, Suite #507
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8J6
Fax: (613) 235-6880

2. The Hon. Lloyd Axworthy
Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 (no postage necessary)
Fax: (613) 996-3443

Let Minister Axworthy know that there is a constituency in Canada that is deeply concerned about human rights in Sudan. Ask him to call on the Sudanese government to also:

- work bilaterally and multilaterally to put more pressure on the Sudanese government to respect the human rights of the Sudanese people and end the civil war in Sudan.

Please send a copy of your letters to your local MP, local media and to ICCAF. Thank you for your support. Inter-Church Coali-tion on Africa, 129 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, ON M4V 1N5. Tel.: (416) 927-1124; Fax: (416) 927-7554; E-mail: ICCAF @web.apc.org.

TSAR'S REMAINS LAID TO REST

Moscow, 20 July (ENI)-As Russia's first president, Boris Yeltsin, looked on, his nation laid its last emperor to rest on 17 July in St. Petersburg, exactly 80 years after the tsar and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in the city of Yekaterinburg in the Ural mountains.

The remains of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, three of their five children and four servants were buried in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in St. Petersburg, final resting place of most of Russia's imperial family.

Boris Yeltsin, who made an eleventh-hour decision to attend the ceremony, said that Russia had finally repented of one of the "most shameful episodes in its history", the brutal murder of the Romanovs by the Bolsheviks, on Lenin's orders.

"Today is an historic day for Russia," President Yeltsin said as he stood before the nine wooden coffins. "By burying the remains of these murdered innocents, we are atoning for the sins of our forefathers... Burying the victims of the Yekaterinburg tragedy is an act of human justice, a symbol of unification in Russia, and redemption of our guilt."

Patriarch Alexei II, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, did not officiate at the St. Petersburg ceremony. He was holding an alternative service, in memory of the murder of the Romanovs, at the Monastery of Holy Trinity and St. Sergius, 80 kilometres north-east of Moscow.

The government and the Russian Orthodox Church have been and remain deeply divided over the issue, and this has weakened the significance of the funeral. - Andrei Zolotov

'TRIAL' IN THE LORD'S PRAYER

London, 15 July (ENI)-A controversial version of the Lord's Prayer has been thrown out by the Church of England's ruling general synod, despite initial approval by the same body in February.

It had been expected that the version, known as the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) text, would be included in the church's new prayer book, Common Worship. Instead, the synod, meeting in York earlier this month, spurned the advice of an expert committee headed by the Archbishop of York, David Hope. It voted to keep the Modified Traditional version (beginning "Our Father, who art in heaven") together with the existing, less radical modern version known as the Alternative Service Book (ASB) text.

Traditionalists who had bemoaned the ELLC's "Save us from the time of trial" (in place of "And lead us not into temptation") celebrated the reprieve. The ASB text's translation of the line echoes the traditional version: "Lead us not into temptation".

Anthony Kilmister, chairman of the Prayer Book Society, told ENI: "I'm delighted that people have been saved from a time of trial. It is foolish to tinker with words here and there, and produce a babble of different versions."

Supporters of the ELLC text say it is more accurate. It is used by some other denominations in the UK and some overseas Anglican provinces.

A Church of England spokesman said the synod could in principle make further changes in revising the final prayer book, but he expected this to be the conclusive vote on the Lord's Prayer. - Cedric Pulford

WMS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

'TEA AND KNITTING' IMAGE DUMPED

London, 17 July (ENI)-The Mother's Union (MU), a pillar of the Anglican Church for more than a century, has decided not to drop the "Mothers" from its name after its world-wide council heard this would "be the death" of the movement.

The plan was put before the council at York, northern England, on 16 July as part of an image revamp.

Recently another famous Christian organisation, the Salvation Army, announced an image revamp in the UK which is likely to include the phasing out of its traditional dark-blue uniforms.

MU, which has 750,000 members throughout the world, wants to shake off its "tea and knitting" image. It is also worried about falling membership in some countries. Supporters of change also argue that the present name does not indicate that single women and men can join MU. But the 400 council members voted heavily to keep it.

A Mothers' Union spokeswoman said that the council's decision was technically a recommendation to the trustees, who would meet in September.

Mothers' Union worldwide president, Christine Eames, told ENI the decision to keep the word "Mothers" had been "received with great joy, particularly by Africans".

Referring to the second resolution allowing local adaptations of the name, she said: "it was a really good Anglican compromise. The decision is right for us at the moment and we can work with it."

The Press Association news agency quoted two trustees on opposite sides of the argument. For Diana Bandy, "the world has moved on. We have to be relevant to people, the men and women of today, and more importantly of tomorrow." But for Emma Moffatt, "it would be horribly divisive at a time when we need to work together". - Cedric Pulford

CHURCH APPEALS AGAINST COURT DECISION

Toronto, 23 July (ENI)-The United Church of Canada (UCC) is to appeal against a court decision which found it and the Canadian Federal Government "vicariously liable" for sexual abuse of children at a residential school for indigenous children.

The UCC is challenging Judge Donald Brenner's decision in the Supreme Court in British Columbia which found the church and the Government of Canada liable without fault for sexual assaults committed by Arthur Plint, a former dormitory supervisor in the now closed Alberni Indian Residential School on Vancouver Island.

The government is not appealing the decision.

Plint is serving 11 years in prison after being convicted in 1995 for abusing 18 boys at the school in the 1950s and 1960s. The school was one of over 80 schools run by Anglican, UCC and Roman Catholic churches on behalf of the Canadian government.

The UCC's moderator, Bill Phipps, said in a statement announcing the appeal: "In filing this appeal, we are not for one moment backing away from our statement, made by the 36th General Council in August 1997, that 'we express our deep regret and sorrow to the First Nations of Canada for the injustices that were done and for the role of the United Church of Canada in the native residential school system'." -Ferdy Baglo

'MISSION SCHOOL VALUES'-MANDELA

East London, South Africa, 20 July (ENI)-On the eve of his 80th birthday, South Africa's President Nelson Mandela - raised as a Methodist - expressed his gratitude for the values taught to him at Sunday school and mission schools.

"Today I am 79 years and 364 days old," President Mandela said on 17 July. "My life has been a long journey. I thank my mother and uncles who sent me to Sunday school and to the mission schools where I was nurtured.

"Although youth is supposed to rebel against a strict church, I look back fondly on the instruction I received at Clarkebury and Healdtown," said the president, who rarely makes speeches about his personal life.

Until the 1960s these schools were run by Christian missionaries who wanted to give black pupils a better education than was offered by the discriminatory and racist state schools. Many were forced to close when the former apartheid government withdrew state subsidies so it could control what black children were taught.

"The values I was taught at these institutions have served me well throughout my life," President Mandela told more than 600 delegates at the triennial conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa held in Durban. -Noel Bruyns

Merry Christmas

IN THE SOCIETY

PRESBYTERIAL

Winnipeg Presbyterial welcomed the Revs. Charlotte Brown and Margaret Robertson to the Annual Meeting in March, held in Kildonan Church. Our guests led in a discussion on the topic: 'What is our Mission'. The discussion centred around mission that is happening all around us. Change may not always be perceived, but it is a continuous process, and new forms and methods are always required.

Two groups of the Presbyterial have retired. In April, Elizabeth Watkins, President, conducted a service of closure for the Knox Church, Selkirk, afternoon Auxiliary. Bess Mackintosh and Lorna Deltor made a presentation relating the long history of service and commitment to mission of the group. Westwood women have changed their format to an ad hoc committee.

The annual rally of the Brandon and Winnipeg Presbyterials was held in June at St. Andrew's Church, Portage La Prairie. The exchange of ideas, the review of Council reports and the fellowship enjoyed, continue to be an important part of the program of our Presbyterials.

"Bus" on its way to Guatemala

Brenda Patterson, President of **Superior** Presbyterial and, at this moment, President of the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Synodical, reported that the "Bus" would be on its way by the end of July with Brenda and Jim Patterson, and Don Munn aboard, headed for Guatemala.

The bus will be turned over to the Lopez family, to be a source of income so that Ignacio, the father, can spend more time ministering to his church. WMS groups across Canada have contributed to this venture.

The announcement was made at the Reports meeting of Superior Presbyterial held on June 25, at First Church, Thunder Bay. Members from Lakeview, Calvin, St. Andrew's and First churches answered the roll call. Means of increasing subscriptions to Glad Tidings were discussed.

Donna Johnson, delegate, reported on the Synodical held in April in Winnipeg. Ruth George, delegate, reported on the Annual Council meeting held May 3-6.

The meeting concluded with the Benediction. Then tea and birthday cake were enjoyed in honour of our Treasurer Frances Campbell's 90 Birthday!

The 112th Annual Meeting of Hamilton Presbyterial met in McNab Church, Hamilton on February 7. President, Evelyn Murdoch greeted the congregation of 200 members and guests. Rev. Mark Lewis and Margaret Baillie welcomed us to McNab.

Strathcona Ladies led the opening worship. Scripture readings reminded us of God's instructions for us to be vibrant in our faith, open to change to promote the growth of the church, to present the good news of a living God and to come together to worship and care for each other.

Moderator, John Congram, unable to be with us in person, brought greetings and his message via an interview recorded by Betty Thompson of Hagersville, with Evelyn Murdoch as emcee.

Jesse Knox introduced our panel of speakers: Mabel McCutcheon, Donna Wilson and Mark Lewis. The panelists spoke in turn of the past, present and future of WMS.

Jeanette Jamieson presented the treasurer's report. Jesse Knox gave a witty and knowledgeable book report.

Luncheon was a gourmet's delight, prepared by the McNab women. Ida

MacMillan, Salem Cottage, Caledonia, gave the courtesy and recited a delightful poem.

Synodical President, Helen McLeish, brought greetings.

Music for the day was provided by the Repchuck family, Father John, Marilyn and Marguerite. Marilyn led the God-praising-sing-a-long, gathering the congregation, with John playing the organ for the hymns and the duets sung by Marilyn and Marguerite. What a wonderful treat!

Presbyterial officers paraded to the music of Dorothy Greenwood, flying pennants with their names and positions clearly displayed. Flo Kettle presented the reports.

Helen Woodley installed the officers for the coming year with a candlelight service.

Jeanette Jamieson, retiring treasurer, was presented with an Honorary Life Membership, thanking her for her work as treasurer; Ruth McPhail presented a gold Life Membership pin from Flamboro WMS, Elsie Henderson Auxiliary. Isabella Purmal gave the courtesies.

This year's **Gladys Sim Children's Rally** on June 20 at Wiarton's Blue Water Park was attended by 89 children and helpers, representing 11 churches in the **Bruce-Grey** area (see photo below).

A perfect summer's day, and a warm welcome to all by Rev. Bruce Clendenning, St. Paul's, Wiarton and Kay Remus, Walkerton, President Bruce-Grey Presbyterial, started a fun filled day of Songs-old and new; Crafts-puppets from odd socks; Games-teams, teams, teams; Snacks-hot dogs and freezies; and of course Story-telling.

The "Good Samaritan" story was creatively enacted as "the Boy/Girl who Shone" with each age group dramatizing it at their own level. Songs and prayer opened and closed the day, developing an appetite for next year's invitation from Durham/Priceville.

The Bruce-Grey Presbyterial sponsors this annual event. The program was developed and organized by members of St. Paul's Church and the Presbyterial executive under the direction of Leone Gingrich, Southampton, Secretary Youth and

Children, Bruce-Grey Presbyterial.

Strathcona Presbyterian WMS welcomed Rev. Allan Young, Missionary for the North Peace Territorial Ministry, from Dixonville Church, Northern Alberta, at an evening meeting on April 21st. Mr. Young gave interesting information on his work. Several members from churches in the **Edmonton-Peace River** Presbyterial were present.

Margaret Moar, President of Strathcona WMS presented Mr. Young with 24 Bibles from Strathcona Church and Rev. Bruce Kemp of the Canadian Bible Society matched those with 24 additional Bibles. Mr. Young received the Bibles gratefully. Shirley Johnson thanked Mr. Young.

Refreshments were served by the WMS of Strathcona.

LOCAL

On May 24, 1998 **St. James (Long Branch)** Church welcomed members of West Toronto Presbyterial, who presented a memorial plaque in honour of Margaret Paterson, who died September 14, 1997. The Plaque was accepted by Flora Voisey, former member of the now disbanded St. James WMS.

By profession Margaret was a schoolteacher and a long-time member of St. James. She was an active member of the Chancel Choir; the W.A. and WMS and a leader of the Explorer's Girls Group. In recent years and prior to moving away, Margaret served as an Elder.

On retirement Margaret became active in the West Toronto Presbyterial becoming Vice President and went on to do a term as President. She later became Treasurer of West Toronto. Margaret was very active in many areas. She loved to travel and was share pictures of the foreign places she visited with many groups. Margaret helped Thursdays at the Coffee Shop at Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

- West Toronto Presbyterial presented with plaque. Back row: Marjorie McMullen, Elizabeth Heath, Jean Best, Beverley McWhinnie. Front row: Gladys Lane, Sarah MacFadden, Flora Voisey, Irene Cameron.

Margaret was a very dedicated woman, always giving of herself.

In Memoriam certificates were presented to family members of three members of **West Lorne WMS, West Lorne**, Ontario who died in the past year.

Betty Brown, Bessie Hauser and Pearl Cummings were life members of the WMS. They are greatly missed.

After church at the Coffee Hour on August 2nd a pin and certificate was presented by the Co-ordinator, Margaret Walker, on behalf of **Fairview WMS, Vancouver, BC** to Sara Gordon. Miss Gordon has been a faithful worker for the WMS and is highly regarded by her fellow members. We trust she will be able to enjoy this honour for many years to come.

On June 2nd, **Glebe Church, Toronto**, was honoured to have Rev. Dr. Fernando Cascante from Costa Rica and Rev. Onwunta from Nigeria as guests at our meeting and Pot Luck Supper.

After supper Dr. Fernando Cascante spoke of his work in Costa Rica. We enjoyed having them both very much and

they said they would take our good wishes back with them to their respective countries.

The picture shows Dr. Cascante on the left and Rev. Onwunta on the right with Clerk of Session Jo Ayers in the middle.

The Evening Guild of **First Church, Thunder Bay** referred the sweat shop petition which was sent to adult groups from the WMS office to the Session. Session ordered that the elders take copies to their workplaces, coffee gatherings, neighbours, etc., that it be circulated during worship in the congregation, and that later in the Fall an information/fellowship evening be hosted by the Mission Committee, The Fellowship Committee and the Evening Guild to give more information about the problem of unfair labour practices.

ANNIVERSARY

On May 27 the WMS of **Knox Crescent Kensington and First Church, Montreal, QC** celebrated a 50th Anniversary with a special luncheon and afternoon meeting of remembrance.

Certificates of recognition were awarded to Mary Benson, Mae Boyd, Doreen Brown, Gail Sanderson and Welthea Smardon.

The photograph to the right shows Dr. D. Neil presenting a Certificate to Doreen Brown. Grace Thornley Brown is in the background.

About 70 persons attended **North Caradoc** WMS 100th Anniversary on June 14, 1998.

A special church service was held at 7 p.m. with guest speaker Rev. Rosemary Doran from Windsor, and special music provided by a group of young people "KIDS SING".

Pictured below are three senior WMS members: Donalda Lamont, Elizabeth Bolton and Jean Dawson who dedicated one bouquet of red roses in memory of past members and the other bouquet to the future WMS members.

Barbara Bolton and Janet Evans lit one candle conveying hope for present missionaries and the other candle for hope to the future missionaries.

Rev. Sabrina Caldwell closed the service with prayer.

OUR READERS Write

Dear Ms Stevenson:

I was surprised and distressed to find the request in the July/August issue of "Glad Tidings" (p. 40) calling us to "Pray for our brothers and sisters in the world who have sacrificed their lives...."

Certainly our missionaries, even those serving strictly in social action situations should have at least a basic knowledge of Presbyterian doctrine. And I would also expect the proofreaders or editors of your magazine to catch an error of this sort and expunge it from the article.

Yours respectfully,
Ed Smith, Lindsay, ON

Stephen Kendall, Principal Clerk and Secretary of the Assembly Council responds: The reader raises a reasonable theological point. If the original article, by calling us "to pray for ...who have sacrificed their lives" is implying we should pray for those who have already died, it would be contrary to Presbyterian doctrine. We believe that "in life and in death, we belong to our faithful saviour Jesus Christ" (Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1) and so prayers for the dead are not required.

If the writer was intending simply to call on the church to remember those who have sacrificed in the name of Jesus Christ on behalf of others, then that is entirely appropriate Presbyterian doctrine. Remembering is part of what it means to be a Christian. At the celebration of communion, one of the elements is the "anamnesis" or "remembering" of God's mighty acts in redeeming the people. Telling the story of people of faith and justice and courage is an important aspect of our faith. I expect that is the spirit intended by the writer.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Do you know what the numbers on the top of your Glad Tidings label mean: i.e. 1289477 represents the subscribers number; 01 tells me you are a paid subscriber or 02 means you receive a complimentary copy. The next six numbers 001234 are your group/congregation number.

When contacting the office, please quote these numbers, or send me the label from the Glad Tidings. This will allow quick access to your name and address in the file. If you are receiving two copies of the magazine, please let me know immediately, quoting the numbers from both magazines.

Since the 911 emergency number is going into new areas, many communities are required to have a specific postal address. For example RR #1 might become 2234 Tenth Street (depending on where you live). If you are affected by this change, please make sure you send us your change of address immediately. Canada Post is also planning on improving the service for mail processing and delivery between small communities in some regions.

Canada Post also requires that your address be accurate. Please make sure that your address is correct on the subscription list. Note especially your postal code and apartment number or box number. If there is no box number or street address listed on the subscription list next to your name, please include this information.

Katherine Allen,
Circulation Manager

Christmas-like Tree at Easter

This poster was made by the children of St. Columba Church, Vancouver BC under the direction of Margaret McClelland and Donna Scott. The tree was created by tracing the hands of 55 students of the Children's Programme from the smallest to the eldest, who is about ten. The hand at the top is that of two year old Rachel Tong.The poster was inspired and accompanied by a poem entitled "Hands".

This was part of an Easter diorama at the Good Friday Breakfast and commemoration of the Crucifixion. The breakfast is a tradition in the church, started about 20 years ago.

Photograph by Jean Chalmers

IN REMEMBRANCE

Miss Agnes (Nessie) Donald,
Knox, Agincourt, ON

Mrs. Bert (Clara) Burditt,
Alberton, ON

Mrs. Edith Nelson,
St. Andrew's, Barrie, ON

Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Caldwell,
Maplewood, Chateauguay, QC

Mrs. G. A. (Jean) Gordier
(former president of Hamilton-London Synodical and widow of Rev. G. A. Gordier)
South Nissouri and Dorchester,
Dorchester, ON

Mrs. Janet Eccles,
Durham, ON

Mrs. Ellen Lake,
Mrs. Betty Paterson,
St. Andrew's, Kingston, ON

Mrs. Helen Barr,
(widow of Rev. Ferguson J. Barr)
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Mrs. Iola Hodgkins,

Mrs. Mary Stiver,
St. Paul's, Leaskdale, ON

Mrs. Rhoda MacKenzie,
Mrs. Jennie Porteus,
Mrs. Greta Stewart (106 years old),
Lucknow, ON

Anne E. McIntosh,
St. Peter's, Madoc, ON

Mrs. Grace Kemp,
St. Andrew's, Molesworth, ON

Mrs. Helen Lewis,
Mrs. Lorene McMillan,
St. Andrew's, Mount Forest, ON

Mrs. Jessie Campbell,
Mrs. Edythe Jermey,
Willis, Oro (Jarratt), ON

Mrs. Elizabeth McConnell,
Erskine, Ottawa, ON

Mrs. Andree Tyson,
St. Andrew's, Ottawa, ON

Jean McGillivray,
Westminster, Paisley, ON

Mrs. Margaret Storie,
Lochwinnoch, Renfrew, ON

Mrs. Jean Wilson,
St. Paul's, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Mrs. Irene Dyer,
Knox, Sooke, BC

Miss Lydia Small,
Jubilee, Stayner, ON

Mrs. Melba Codd,
St. Andrew's, Tisdale, SK

Mrs. Irene Sauve,
Melrose Park, Toronto, ON

Mrs. Gladys Hendrickson,
Fairview, Vancouver, BC

Mrs. Ena Ritchie,
St. Andrew's, Wingham, ON

Correction:
Mrs. Helen Bennett (nee Roberts)
Oakville, ON
(Charter member Annie Purvis Auxiliary, St. Paul's, Port Hope, ON)

Early Winter Scenario

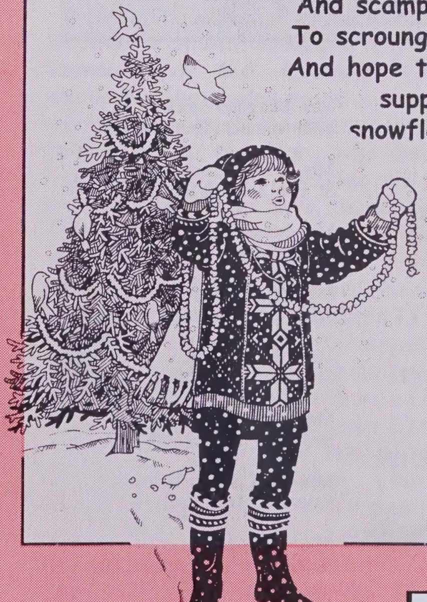
Sudden snowflakes!
Surprised sparrows search in vain
for shelter in sugar maple.
The breeze is too strong; they flit away again.

Small puffball of black squirrel, springtime's crop,
Scurries to scratch frantically for food
Among tufts of oak and ash leaves
between the plum and pine.
Too late already!
The white snow driving down
could be a problem-
Could even blot out a worried small black squirrel,
To say nothing of his food supply.

He shakes his tail and smirks his nose,
And scampers to a sheltering bush
To scrounge a few scattered seeds
And hope the bird feeder will offer
support for the season...
snowflakes scud across the shrubs.

Martha Stickney

(see September/October Glad Tidings,
p. 25 for information about Martha Stickney.)



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